



Health Watch USAsm

Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Feb. 1, 2020

Member of the National Quality Forum and a designated "Community Leader" for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services



Director Steve Burrows discusses the award-winning HBO documentary Bleed Out. -- Jack Pattie Show.

"After a routine partial hip replacement operation leaves his mother in a coma with permanent brain damage, what starts as a son's video diary becomes a citizen's investigation into the future of American

health care. Shot over the course of ten years, using archival footage, vérité scenes, undercover spy cams, courtroom testimony and interviews with family and experts, the award-winning, critically acclaimed BLEED OUT goes deep inside a flawed healthcare system."

Listen to Show (WVLK Jan. 7, 2010.): https://youtu.be/30vwQ_3NVUI

Documentary Trailer: <https://www.hbo.com/documentaries/bleed-out>

Press Release: [View Documentary Press Release](#)

Association Between Mobile Telephone Interruptions and Medication Administration Errors in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

Medscape - Reuters: "Error rates associated with calls were higher for less experienced nurses, during the night shift, and when nurse-to-patient ratio was low and patients required more complex care," ""The contribution of each of these factors should be considered when designing and prioritizing interventions to reduce the frequency of interruptions and potentially adverse consequences for patient safety," Dr. Bonafide and his team conclude."

<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/923153>

JAMA: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2757364>

Healthcare Infections

Amid disgrace of U.S. nursing homes lurks epidemic of drug-resistant bacteria



Lexington Herald Leader: "A recent study in California found that over 50 percent of nursing home residents harbor dangerous antibiotic

resistant bacteria. Unfortunately, there are few regulations which safeguard the health and well-being of either the facility's residents or the nursing home's staff. It needs to be remembered that these resistant bacteria do not care about policy and politics, they are out to win. And unless we decisively act, the prophetic tragedy predicted by several commentators in a La Times OpEd may come true. The epidemic of antibiotic resistant organisms may be the final solution to global warming."

<https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article239272058.html>



The Importance of Vaccinations -- Dr Joycelyn Elders

Past Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, MD discusses the importance of vaccines and the emerging measles epidemic. Health Watch USA Conference Oct. 17, 2019.

<https://youtu.be/Vb234SIG9nl>

Infection Preventionists. Added Information in Print Edition of Infection Control Today.

Infection Control Today: "For example, take hand hygiene. Compliance in too many facilities is dismal. At 100% compliance, recent research looking at glove and gown acquisitions of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) indicates that gloves alone stop almost two-thirds of MRSA acquisitions, making hand hygiene a cornerstone of infection control. However, two-thirds control may not be adequate to prevent spread, and in the case of drug-resistant dangerous pathogens, hand hygiene should be viewed as a backup measure, since these pathogens should not be on a healthcare worker's hands in the first place."

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/sterile-processing/conversation-kevin-kavanagh-md-infection-preventionists-are-underutilized-and-underappreciated>

Airplane sewage may be helping antibiotic-resistant microbes spread.

Science News: "In a survey of airplane sewage from five German airports, around 90 percent of 187 *E. coli* isolated and tested were resistant to at least one antibiotic. For comparison, between 45 and 60 percent of these common gut dwellers collected from inlets to German wastewater treatment plants were drug resistant, the scientists found. And *E. coli* from airplane sewage was far more likely than that from municipal wastewater to be resistant to three or more antibiotics, researchers report in the Dec. 3 *Environmental Science & Technology*."

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/airplane-sewage-may-help-antibiotic-resistant-microbes-spread>

Environmental Science and Technology: "Moreover, combined resistance against third-generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, and aminoglycosides was unusually common (28.9%) among *Escherichia coli* isolated from airplane sewage. This percentage exceeds the one reported for German clinical isolates by a factor of 8. Our findings suggest that airplane-borne sewage can effectively contribute to the fast and global spread of antibiotic resistance."

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.9b03236>

Ten years later: still a high prevalence of MRSA in slaughter pigs despite a significant reduction in antimicrobial usage in pigs the Netherlands.

JAC 2016: "A very high prevalence of nasal MRSA carriage was found in Dutch slaughter pigs and therefore the reduction in antimicrobial usage at the national level has not yet had an effect on the MRSA carriage rate of pigs entering the slaughterhouse. "

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27261265>

CDC Invests in Innovation to Combat Antibiotic Resistance

CDC: "Through its AR Solutions Initiative, CDC invests and collaborates with innovators to find solutions that protect people by studying antibiotic resistance in health care, food, the environment (e.g., water and soil), and communities. This includes:

1. Collaborating with medical academic **investigators to protect patients** from antibiotic-resistant germs in healthcare settings.
2. Obtaining stronger surveillance data that can drive action.
3. Identifying public health approaches that protect people, **their microbiomes**, and the

effectiveness of antibiotics.

4. Addressing knowledge gaps around how antibiotic resistance in agriculture and the environment may impact human health. "

Antibiotics

Quinolone Antibiotics Still Being Used Too Often. Kentucky is one of the highest States.



John Furman discusses the risks and overuse of Quinolone antibiotics. The state of Kentucky has one of the highest rates of usage in the nation, over 1000 prescriptions per year per 1000 population in 2017. Health Watch USA meeting Jan. 18, 2020. View YouTube Video of Presentation (14 mins): <https://youtu.be/sU70aIDLWcM>

Fluoroquinolones, Cancer Drugs on New FDA Watch List

<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/924040>

WHO warns that pipeline for new antibiotics is running dry (New York Times)

NYT: "Some 700,000 people die each year because medicines that once cured their conditions are no longer effective. Yet the vast majority of the 60 new antimicrobial products in development worldwide are variations on existing therapies, and only a handful target the most dangerous drug-resistant infections, the agency said in a report." <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/17/health/antibiotics-resistance-new-drugs.html>

Antibiotics prescribed more often during telemedicine visits

The findings suggest that quality of care for respiratory infections in children may be lower during remote visits than in-person visits.

--- Among visits matched by patient and visit characteristics, the team found that doctors prescribed antibiotics for respiratory infections at 52% of telemedicine visits, 42% of urgent care visits, and 31% of primary care visits.

--- Only 59% of telemedicine visits met the guidelines, compared with 67% of urgent care

visits and 78% of primary care visits.

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/antibiotics-prescribed-more-often-during-telemedicine-visits>

Progress in how pharma companies tackle overselling antimicrobials

Access To Medicine Foundation: "10 companies decouple bonuses from sales volume or avoid using sales agents altogether, up from 5 in 2018. By decoupling bonuses from sales volumes, or not using any sales staff at all, pharma companies mitigate against overselling antibiotics and driving resistance. "

- "Three companies have no sales agents promoting antibiotics or antifungals."
- "Seven companies fully or partially decouple sales agents' bonuses from volumes."

<https://accesstomedicinefoundation.org/amr-benchmark/results/progress-in-how-pharma-companies-tackle-overselling-antimicrobials>

Healthcare Safety

CMS Responds to Health Watch USAsm Request to Make the Provision of Implantable Medical Device Informations a Condition of Participation

"We appreciate your suggestions about ways to improve patient knowledge of their devices and the potential benefits of ensuring that patients are provided this information. We are committed to fostering patient education and engagement, and will take these suggestions under advisement as we consider future refinements to the hospital CoPs."

http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20200109-CMS-UDI_Response.pdf

What states aren't doing to save new mothers' lives



"The U.S. maternal death rate is among the highest in the developed world. Eighteen states haven't studied these deaths and others tend to blame moms. "

<https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/investigations/deadly-deliveries/2018/09/19/maternal-death-rate-state-medical-deadly-deliveries/547050002/>

FDA approval may not be as rigorous as it once was

Reuters: "Changes in U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) procedures meant to speed approvals for medications may have resulted in less exacting standards, a new analysis suggests....For example, the proportion of new drug approvals supported by at least two so-called pivotal trials - the clinical trials the FDA primarily relies on for its approval decisions - decreased from 80.6% in 1995-1997 to 52.8% in 2015-2017. "

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-fda/fda-approval-may-not-be-as-rigorous-as-it-once-was-idUSKBN1ZD2TC>

Source: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2758605>

Cannabis Use and Risk of Lung Cancer: A Case-Control Study.

Eur Respir J: "A major differential risk between cannabis and cigarette smoking was observed, with 1 joint of cannabis similar to about 20 cigarettes for risk of lung cancer."

"The risk of lung cancer increased 8% (95% CI 2% to 15%) for each joint-year of cannabis smoking, after adjustment for confounding variables including cigarette smoking, and 7% (95% CI 5% to 9%) for each pack-year of cigarette smoking, after adjustment for confounding variables including cannabis smoking. "

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2516340/>

Healthcare Costs

Ending surprise billing: A moral test for physicians

"About 20 percent of patients in an in-network hospital are seen by an out-of-network ER doctor. " "To financially ruin our patients when they are sick shows a moral rot in our community." **Arbitration:** May have made the situation worse. "The state's guidelines suggest that arbiters settle around the 80th percentile of billed charges, Why negotiate with an insurer when you can get 80 percent of whatever charge you want to bill?"

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2019/12/09/opinion/ending-surprise-billing-moral-test-physicians/>

Insulin price hikes are killing Kentuckians. The General Assembly needs to stop them. <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article239239798.html>

Read more here: <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article237405224.html#storylink=cpy>

Health Watch USAsm Oct. 17, 2019 Conference



**Public Health in Crisis
MDRO Epidemics & FDA
Oversight**
Health Watch USAsm Patient Safety
Conference
Oct 17, 2019 in Lexington, Kentucky

Conference Website is now online with presentation
slides: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2019/>

View Presentations:

- 1) Lisa Middleton, PhD: The high cost of insulin and diabetic healthcare, <https://youtu.be/HnhodaAdHdE>
- 2) Steve Roach: Resistant bacteria: Risks of antibiotic use in livestock and non-prescription antibiotics, <https://youtu.be/qDPLOXKgRBc>
- 3) Suzanne Robotti - CEO and Founder MedShadow: Fosamax post approval label changes - protecting the patient or the pharmaceutical company? <https://youtu.be/1MripZTWMBQ>
- 4) Lindsay Calderon, PhD, MPH: FDA MAUDE Database. Who is reporting and potential biases this creates. https://youtu.be/yKomHc_DWtw
- 5) Melissa Clarkson, PhD: The term "Second Victim" & Candor Legislation. <https://youtu.be/ObJq0k2UogM>
- 6) Jayne O'Donnell, USA TODAY & Laura Ungar, Kaiser Health News. The importance of Patient Advocate Stories in National News Reports. <https://youtu.be/CD1pByr-qUQ>
- 7) Joycelyn Elders, MD, Past US Surgeon General. <https://youtu.be/Vb234SIG9nl>

=====

To subscribe to Health Watch USAsm

newsletter go to:

<http://www.hwusa-newsletter.org/lists/?p=subscribe&id=1>



Visit and "Like" HW USA's Facebook Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/HealthWatchUsa>

