



# Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup>

## Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Mar. 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



### PACCARB - Public Comments

#### Enhanced Precautions for Nursing Homes -- Will they be enough to stop infections?

Kevin Kavanagh, MD presents public comments regarding enhanced barrier precautions for nursing homes and concerns are raised regarding their effectiveness in preventing spread of dangerous pathogens. The concept of a facility's microbiome being compatible with that of the residents' is discussed. PACCARB Meeting Feb. 2020.

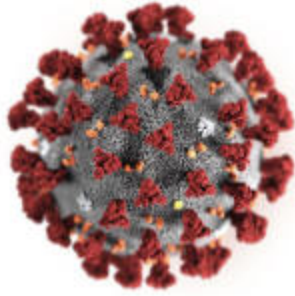
<https://youtu.be/HIBmIDQvz54>



#### Transparency of Outbreaks of Dangerous Pathogens - Is the United States Any Better Than China?

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh stresses the importance of public disclosure of antibiotic resistant bacteria outbreaks. And how the United States performance is not that much better than what occurred with the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in China. Public comment before the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. Feb. 27, 2020.

[https://youtu.be/q\\_hiy2wB1wg](https://youtu.be/q_hiy2wB1wg)



## **Coronavirus is the biggest challenge our healthcare system has faced. Is Kentucky prepared?**

In January, I concluded an OpEd with an alarmist statement: "The epidemic of antibiotic resistant organisms may be the final solution to global warming." We are currently on the precipice of a

massive pandemic from the coronavirus (COVID-19). Initial data from China has documented massive economic disruption with a 25 percent drop in carbon emissions. A sobering observation, but of even more concern when one considers the United States does not have the authoritarian structure and a culture of population control which exists in the Chinese government. According to the CDC, the unknown is when, not if, the epidemic will hit the United States and "severe disruption" of everyday life may occur.

<https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article240697331.html>



## **Infection Preventionists, Hospital Administrators Will Be on Frontlines of Coming COVID-19 Epidemic**

Preparation for the impending epidemic of the COVID-19 coronavirus is of utmost importance and will place a tremendous strain on our healthcare system that will require coordination between the IPs, administrators and the hospital's board. This impending epidemic underscores the importance of the work that the CDC is undertaking by using surveillance and quarantine strategies to delay entry and slow the spread of this pathogen. <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/hai-types/infection-preventionists-hospital-administrators-will-be-frontlines-coming-covid-19-epidemic>

## **As a doctor, I put patient well-being above my personal feelings. Don't pass SB 90.**

Medicine is difficult and diverse, and we are destined to encounter conflicts in the management of some patients. We may have strong feelings about them, but we try our best to help because we are doctors and we don't turn away. Kentucky Senate Bill 90 deserves a swift and merciful death." Read more here:

<https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article240584711.html>

## **CMS hints at accreditation organization crackdown after airing concerns over consulting arms, survey accuracy**

"Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma blasted accrediting organizations for greenlighting hospitals that later went on to make safety violations. She also slammed organizations that set up fee-based consulting services, which she called a conflict of interest." <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals-health-systems/cms-hints-at-accreditation-organization-crackdown-after-airing-concerns>

## **Association of registered nurse and nursing support staffing with inpatient hospital mortality.**

" Low RN and nursing support staffing were associated with increased mortality. The results should encourage hospital leadership to assure both adequate RN and nursing support staffing. " BMJ Quality & Safety Volume 29, Issue

1 <https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/29/1/10>

## **This woman was charged \$143,396.66 for a breast biopsy — here's how to improve medical billing transparency**

Marty Makary: "A few weeks ago, Perla Ni went to the Stanford Health Care hospital system for a breast biopsy. Days later she was given the procedure's price: \$143,396.66. I know everything costs more in California, but this was ridiculous. I've performed hundreds of those operations. They take about 45 minutes."

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/a-doctors-prescription-to-save-patients-money-grief-and-sticker-shock-2020-02-18>

## **Pence Will Control All Coronavirus Messaging From Health Officials - The New York Times.**

NYTs: "The president's selection of Mr. Pence — and the decision to name Dr. Birx as the coordinator for the response — further erodes Mr. Azar's traditional role as the nation's top health official in charge of directing the government's response to a medical crisis. Mr. Trump has told people that he considers Mr. Azar to be too "alarmist" about the virus." "“We are dealing with a serious virus,” Dr. Fauci said. Dr. Fauci has told associates that the White House had instructed him not to say anything else without clearance." <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/27/us/politics/us-coronavirus-pence.html>

## Look Up Your Hospital: Is It Being Penalized By Medicare?

KHN: "Under programs set up by the Affordable Care Act, the federal government cuts payments to hospitals that have high rates of readmissions and those with the highest numbers of infections and patient injuries. For the readmission penalties, Medicare cuts as much as 3 percent for each patient, although the average is generally much lower. The patient safety penalties cost hospitals 1 percent of Medicare payments over the federal fiscal year, which runs from October through September." <https://khn.org/news/hospital-penalties/>

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

## 228 hospitals with a 1 star rating from CMS

"CMS' Hospital Compare website reports on quality measures for more than 4,500 hospitals nationwide. Here is a breakdown of the updated star ratings:

- One star: 228 hospitals
- Two stars: 710 hospitals
- Three stars: 1,191 hospitals
- Four stars: 1,136 hospitals
- Five stars: 407 hospitals"

<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/quality/228-hospitals-with-a-1-star-rating-from-cms.html>

## Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> Oct. 26, 2020 Conference



### Public Health in Crisis MDRO Epidemics & FDA Oversight

Oct 26, 2020 in Lexington, Kentucky

Conference Website is now online register today: <http://www.healthconference.org/>



selling book "The Perfect Predator".

The KeyNote speakers will be Dr. Stephanie Stratthdee and Dr. Thomas Patterson who will present the unbelievable story of Dr. Stratthdee to save her husband, Dr. Patterson's life from a totally antibiotic resistant bacteria, acinetobacter baumannii. Her search discovered a 100 year old therapy, bacterial viruses or phages. With the help of the Naval Research Department, Texas A & M, University of California at San Diego the treatment was given to her husband who was on the brink of death. And it worked, placing bacterial phages at the forefront of medical research to stop the epidemic of drug resistant bacteria. Now a best-

=====

**To subscribe to Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup>  
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>

