



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org June 12, 2009

2009 Conference on Healthcare Transparency and Patient Advocacy

The final speaker for our 2009 conference will be from Consumer Union's (Consumer Reports) Health Rating Center. Dr. Santa the Director of Consumer Reports Health Rating Center has arranged a presentation on the status of Consumer Reports initiative to rate both facilities and physicians. Initial hospital data can be found at

http://www.stophospitalinfections.org/infection_prevention/

The Nov. 13th, 2009 healthcare conference's agenda can be viewed on www.healthconference.org. A large array of nationally renowned speakers will present at this conference whose main theme is healthcare reform.

For more information download the conference's brochure at:

http://www.healthconference.org/2009conference_downloads/HCTPA_Brochure.pdf

Register now for the Nov. 13th, 2009 Conference at www.healthconference.org

Rand Corporation Categorizes Healthcare Reform Efforts

The Rand Corp. COMPARE initiative compared different healthcare policy proposals and tools to analyze them. Noticeably absent is a single-payer system. <http://www.randcompare.org>

An analysis of these options is shown in a table at <http://www.randcompare.org/analysis/>

Cost of Physicians interacting with Health Insurance Plans.

A report in "Health Affairs" estimates that physician overhead expenses for interacting with insurance companies cost practices a total of \$23 to \$31 billion dollars per year. (Online Publication, May 14, 2009)

http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/abstract/hlthaff.28.4.w533v1?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESU_LTFORMAT=&fulltext=70%2C000&andorexactfulltext=and&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&resourcetype=HWCI

Risks and Benefits of Angiography – Reported by CBS News Jan 8, 2009 and Business Week June 5, 2009.

Dr. Elliot Fisher from Dartmouth Medical Center estimates that 40% of angiographies are unnecessary.

http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/jun2009/tc2009065_436591.htm

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/06/08/eveningnews/main5072841.shtml>

The New England Journal of Medicine reported that patients with Type 2 diabetes and heart disease did not benefit from angioplasty and stent placement.

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/NEJMoa0805796>

This adds to the other articles reported by HW USA in our March 2009 Newsletter .

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/200903-Mar-Newsletter.pdf>

Healthcare Acquired Infections:

“Short-Term Bug Rampant” by Christine Nutty and Kathy Warye

Christine Nutty is President of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology for 2009. Kathy Warye is CEO of APIC

This article reports that 1.7 million patients in the USA develop health care acquired infections annually and 100,000 die as a result of their infection. MRSA infections are increasing 8 times more than expected and C Dif 10 to 20 times more than expected.

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090608/SUB/306089996&no-cache=1&no-cache=1>

Clostridium Difficile on the rise. “National point prevalence of Clostridium difficile in US health care facility inpatients, 2008” William R. Jarvis, MD, JoAnn Schlosserb, Ashley A. Jarvis, Raymond Y. Chinn, MD

A new report in the American Journal of Infection Control (May 2009) suggests the incidence of C. Diff is increasing. [http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(09\)00041-8/abstract/](http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(09)00041-8/abstract/)

Kentucky was reported to be one of the worse states with a prevalence of 21.8 per 1000 hospitalized patients. Kentucky has the sixth highest prevalence in the United States.

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2009/images/gprca0601a.pdf>

The above adds to the importance of the State of Kentucky to take an active role in monitoring infections and outbreaks.

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