



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org

July 24, 2009

2009 Conference on Healthcare Transparency and Patient Advocacy

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

Update on Healthcare Acquired Infection

Since the publication of HW USAs Op-Ed in the Courier Journal regarding healthcare-acquired infections, much has changed.

The US House's bill on healthcare reform contains a section that mandates public reporting of healthcare-acquired infections. http://www.healthwatchusa.org/mrsa/pdf_downloads/20090722-HB_3200_Public_Reporting_of_HAI.pdf

Major national societies have signed a letter supporting this section and public reporting of healthcare-acquired infections. These include:

- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
- Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)
- The Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA)
- The Council of State Epidemiologists (CSTE)
- The Trust for America's Health (TFAH)

View Letter: http://www.healthwatchusa.org/mrsa/pdf_downloads/20090722-Experts_Pubic-Reporting-HAIs.pdf

The problem may be even bigger than everyone thinks. The American College of Surgeons reports that post-operative infection rates are surprisingly high with open abdominal aortic aneurysm replacement and open thoracic and thoracoabdominal repair reported to have post-op infection rates of over 11%.

Surgery News Vol 5 July 2009, page 18. <http://www.facs.org/surgerynews/0709.pdf>

As reported in the March 2009 Newsletter, Senator Menendez has submitted a bill addressing public reporting of healthcare-acquired infections and mandatory cultures.

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=s111-1305>

And the American Medical News (AMA Newsletter) states that **30 States Now Require Public Reporting of Healthcare-Acquired Infections** (June 22, 2009). Despite all of this many hospitals are cutting back on infection control efforts. <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2009/06/22/prsa0622.htm>

House Democrats Adopt an Even Stronger Stance Against Healthcare Infections

"The House health reform bill released Tuesday (July 14) prohibits CMS from paying for the cost of health care-acquired conditions, slating them as non-covered. The provision, which would go into effect at the start of 2010." Date: July 15, 2009 © Inside Washington Publishers

Health Care Reform

Supporters of a single payer system can point to the recent AHRQ report that the uninsured are responsible for nearly one fifth of ER Visits: <http://www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2009/hhsuninserpr.htm>

However, those against a single payer system are quoting the statistics of delay in treatment and higher cancer mortality rates in the UK System compared to the USA.

- For Prostate Cancer: <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S1470204508701049>
- Overall Cancer Survival: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/80600.php>
[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045\(08\)70179-7/fulltext#article_upsell](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(08)70179-7/fulltext#article_upsell)

Recent Article in the Lexington Herald Leader on healthcare reform (July 23, 2009):
<http://www.kentucky.com/148/story/870819.html>

Transparency:

The Kentucky Hospital Association has posted an excellent website which lists risk-adjusted mortality for various medical diagnoses. This is an excellent website and represents a true step forward in transparency.
<http://info.kyha.com/QualityData/IQISite/>

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