



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Sep. 16, 2009

Healthcare Acquired Infections

** New study reported by NorthShore University Health System in Evanston, Illinois found that universal PCR screening for MRSA on 37,179 patients produced a 70% reduction in MRSA with a cost savings of \$1.8 million.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/708813?ssdmh=dm1.528513&src=nldne&uac=123591HV>

** CDC releases new estimates on the number and cost of health care acquired infections:

Major site of Infection	Estimated Number of Infections
Healthcare-Associated Infection (all HAI)	1,737,125
Surgical Site Infection (SSI)	290,485
Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI)	92,011
Ventilator-associated Pneumonia (VAP)	52,543
Catheter associated Urinary tract Infection (CAUTI)	449,334
Clostridium difficile-associated disease (CDI)	178,000

Major site of Infection	Range of In Patient Costs in Billions (CPI adjusted)
Surgical Site Infection (SSI)	\$3.45 - \$10.07
Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI)	\$0.67 - \$2.68
Ventilator-associated Pneumonia (VAP)	\$1.03 - \$1.50
Catheter associated Urinary tract Infection (CAUTI)	\$0.39 - \$0.45
Clostridium difficile-associated disease (CDI)	\$1.14 - \$1.62

http://www.healthwatchusa.org/mrsa/pdf_downloads/200903-Scott_CostPaper.pdf

** Correction

The link to David Hawpe's Courier Journal Op-Ed Calling for KY Legislation to address healthcare acquired infections was broken. The Op-Ed has been posted (with permission) on Health Watch USA's website and can be viewed at: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/20090727-CJ-MRSA.pdf>

** AHRQ posts new Health Care Associated Infection page

<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/hais.htm>

The information in this newsletter is the express opinion of the author and Health Watch USA, Inc.

Health Care Reform

** NEJM reports that the vast majority of physicians (72.5%) are in favor of a public option (62.9%) or single payer system (9.6%). <http://healthcarereform.nejm.org/?p=1790&query=home>

** AP & WSJ reports that 87.4 million more Americans have Government Insurance Plans in 2007, almost 30% of the population.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALegM5ieechZWJMqSYwxTVuEiipvNH84FgD9AKM3K80>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125262553805601441.html>

** What President Obama has said about competition's role in healthcare reform (Colorado Town Hall Meeting):

“ So the question then becomes, how do we get more hospitals, more doctors, more health systems, to adopt these systems. And the best way to do it is to make sure that not only are they reporting these preventable errors, but that they're also available to consumers -- the American people -- so that if they've got too many of them, after a while they start getting embarrassed. Right? I mean, if you found out that there are two hospitals here in this city and one hospital has half the preventable deaths of the other hospital, you'd want to know that, wouldn't you?

The problem is right now oftentimes it's very hard for consumers to get that information directly. So the idea is simply to make sure that that information is packaged in a way where you can comparison shop, and your employer -- if you're getting health insurance from your employer -- could comparison shop. So we're putting some competitive pressure to improve quality across the system. That's what we're talking about. (Applause.) By the way, thank you for being a nurse, because we need more nurses. That's important. (Applause.) All right, gentleman right here in the t-shirt. Hold on one second, we got a mic coming.”

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2009/08/barack-obama-colorado-healthcare-text.html>

2009 Conference on Healthcare Transparency and Patient Advocacy

The Nov. 13th 2009 healthcare conference has a preliminary agenda posted on www.healthconference.org . A large array of nationally renowned speakers will present at the conference whose main theme is healthcare reform.

A few of the speakers for this year's event:

Keynote: [Dr Regina Herzlinger](#): Professor and Chairwoman of the Harvard School for Business. Best selling author of " Who Killed Health Care in America ? "

[Lt Gov. Daniel Mongiardo, MD](#): Lieutenant Governor State of Kentucky

[Dr. Joycelyn Elders](#): Past U.S. Surgeon General. Presenting on the need for health care reform.

[Dr. L.D. Britt](#): Chairman of the Board of Regents, the American College of Surgeons. presenting on the physician shortage.

[Nadeem Esmail](#): Director of Health System Performance Studies and Manager of the Alberta Policy Research Centre at the Fraser Institute. Presenting on the Canadian Health Care System.

[Dr Garret Adams](#): Kentucky State Coordinator of Physicians for a National Health Care Program. Presenting on the single-payer system.

For more information download the conference's brochure at:

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

The importance of this topic is exemplified by the new AHRQ report which found that fewer families who are not covered by group policies can afford health insurance.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2009/faminspr.htm>

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

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