



# Health Watch USA Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Oct. 5, 2009

## Healthcare Acquired Infections

New PHC4 Report from Pennsylvania appears to show that 38% of hospital readmissions are caused by complication or infection. <http://www.phc4.org/reports/hpr/08/nr092409.htm>

First World MRSA day was held Oct 2, 2009 <http://www.worldmrsaday.org/>

A MRSA survivors network is forming <http://www.mrsasurvivors.org/>

## Health Care Reform

A Kaiser Foundation tracking poll found that 57% of Americans now feel it is important to tackle health care reform now. This opinion is strongly split on party lines. 42% feel they will be better off if health care reform passes, 23% feel they will be worse off.

<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/upload/7990.pdf>

A Commonwealth Funds report on health care reform recommends the formation of insurance exchanges, stimulating competition and system changes to increase efficiency.

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/Fund-Reports/2009/Feb/The-Path-to-a-High-Performance-US-Health-System.aspx>

In 2006, Medicare spent \$2600 more per patient in East Long Island than in San Francisco. This totals 1 billion dollars. Is understanding regional variation the key to health care reform? Learn more about this subject from Fisher, et. al. In the NEJM Oct 2009 <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/reprint/360/9/849.pdf>

## Medicaid

Medicaid currently services 60 million individuals. Spending growth in Medicaid was 7.9% in 2009 (5.8% projected). In addition, states estimate that in 2010 Medicaid recipients will grow 6.6% – Kaiser Foundation.

[http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7985\\_ES.pdf](http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7985_ES.pdf)

A State comparison list of Medicaid Coverage Eligibility – Kaiser Foundation

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7993.pdf>

Secretary Sebelius Awards \$40 Million to States to Find, Enroll Children in CHIP, Medicaid

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/09/20090930a.html>

## Health Insurance

Reports are becoming more common of doctors being “fed-up” with insurance:  
[http://money.cnn.com/2009/08/17/news/economy/healthcare\\_retainer\\_doctors/](http://money.cnn.com/2009/08/17/news/economy/healthcare_retainer_doctors/)

If projections are correct, the Commonwealth Fund estimates the annual cost of a family health insurance policy at \$23,842 by 2020.

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/Data-Briefs/2009/Aug/Paying-the-Price-How-Health-Insurance-Premiums-Are-Eating-Up-Middle-Class-Incomes.aspx>

## 2009 Conference on Health care Transparency and Patient Advocacy

The Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 2009 health care conference has a preliminary agenda posted on [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org). A large array of nationally renowned speakers will present at the conference whose main theme is health care reform.

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

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**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.

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For more information download the conference's brochure at:

[http://www.healthconference.org/2009conference\\_downloads/HCTPA\\_Brochure.pdf](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. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Conference at [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org)

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