



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Nov. 2, 2009

Health Care Waste – High

Thomson Reuters estimates that the waste in healthcare is between \$600 billion and \$850 billion annually. The breakdown is as follows:

- 40% Unnecessary Care
- 19% Fraud
- 17% Administrative inefficiency
- 12% Healthcare Provider Errors
- 6% Preventable Conditions
- 6% Lack of Care Coordination

http://thomsonreuters.com/content/press_room/tsh/waste_US_healthcare_system

Commonwealth Fund - Healthcare Performance Report

Kentucky ranks 45th (at the bottom) on healthcare relative to achievable benchmarks for 38 indicators of access, quality, costs, and health outcomes. In 2007, Kentucky ranked 43rd on the same measurements. This indicates that things may be getting worse. Kentucky is in the bottom quartile for both affordability of care and healthy living.

Improvements in healthcare is attributed to a number of factors. The impact of Medicare's transparency initiatives to measure and benchmark the quality of hospital care. Declines in rates of pressure ulcers and restraints in nursing homes, and patient mortality was attributed to public reporting and collaborative improvement initiatives.

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/Fund-Reports/2009/Oct/2009-State-Scorecard.aspx>

Underreporting of Adverse Events.

American Medical News reports that as of 2007, only half of the hospitals have ever made an adverse report to the Medical Databank. Sept. 21, 2009.

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2009/09/21/prsa0921.htm>

This comes after the Dec 2008 DHHS OIG report in which "Officials at the Joint Commission estimate(d) that its voluntary Sentinel Event Reporting System captures only "1/10th of 1 percent" of sentinel events that occur in accredited hospitals." (see page 25) <http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-07-00470.pdf>

Since 1995, there have only been 4347 sentinel events reported in hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission. http://www.jointcommission.org/NR/rdonlyres/377FF7E7-F565-4D61-9FD2-593CA688135B/0/SE_Stats_9_09.pdf

New Jersey News

Reports that the state of New Jersey found 9,400 serious errors at N.J. Hospitals which led to healthcare acquired infections, blood clots and other life-threatening conditions.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-15/125556570591030.xml&coll=1>

New Jersey Patient Safety Indicator Report

<http://web.doh.state.nj.us/apps2/hpr/docs/2009/report.pdf>

Hospital Acquired Infections

CDC awards a \$17 million dollar grant to fight Healthcare – Associated Infections

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/10/20091023b.html>

HCA publishes protocols on the web.

Slide 5 shows that HCA was able to achieve dramatic reductions in MRSA infections.

http://www.nhpf.org/library/handouts/Perlin.slides_04-08-09.pdf

http://www.hcahealthcare.com/CPM/CLINICIAN_AD_SPREAD_lg.pdf

MRSA Control Measures – Surveillance Cultures:

The New Mexico MRSA Collaborative reports a 48% reduction in hospital associated MRSA with the implementation of active surveillance cultures and appropriate MRSA control measures for MRSA positive patients. (Abstract can be viewed below – full report to follow)

http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/200907-NM-MRSA_Press_release.pdf

Hand Washing Low Among Doctors

<http://abcnews.go.com/2020/superfreakonomics-dirty-hands-deadly-infections/story?id=8861823>

Cost Transparency

John Rodgers, an uninsured Kentuckian, makes the Wall Street Journal on the benefits of shopping for healthcare. He lowered the cost of his surgical purchase from \$4200 to \$900. The website “Out of Pocket” is also mentioned. “OutOfPocket.com, has a search service to help users find on line pricing information listed on various sites.”

Mona Lori, the Founder of OutOfPocket.com is a presenter and exhibitor at HW USA's 2009 conference.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704222704574499623333862720.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_RIGHTTopCarousel

AHRQ reports Disparities in Healthcare Quality Among Racial & Ethnic Minority Groups; and that Poverty is a Barrier to High-Quality Care.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhqrd08/nhqrdminority08.htm>

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

Consumer Union holds Patient Safety Forum at the Kaiser Institute

– Nov. 17th, 2009

Consumers Union's Safe Patient Project (formerly Stop Hospital Infections) is holding a forum, “To Err Is Human, To Delay Is Deadly,” at the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington, DC on November 17th. The forum marks the 10th anniversary of the Institute of Medicine study on medical errors and raises concerns about the lack of progress over the past decade

Speakers to Include:

Paul O'Neill, former Secretary of the U.S. Treasury

Lisa McGiffert, Campaign Manager, Consumers Union's Safe Patient Project

Rick Shannon, MD, University of Pennsylvania, He is a successful advocate for patient safety from within the walls of the hospital, challenging those in the medical community who say it is too difficult to stop hospital-acquired infections.

Along with a panell discussion on the role of Journalism in Creating Safe Healthcare and The Views of Consumer Advocates.

For more information go to:

http://cu.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=spp_webcast_page

The link on the page to the web cast will be live on the day of the forum.

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