



# Health Watch USA Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Nov. 22, 2009

## **House Bill Passes – Preserves Sections on Never Events and Public Reporting of Healthcare Acquired Infections.**

[http://docs.house.gov/rules/health/111\\_ahcaa.pdf](http://docs.house.gov/rules/health/111_ahcaa.pdf)

HR 3962 – Section 1461 page 913 – Requires Public Reporting of Healthcare Acquired Infections.

HR 3962 – Section 1751 page 1118 to 1119 – Requires Medicaid to adopt Medicare Rules for non-payment of Never Events.

## **Debate begins on Combined Committee Bill – Contains Sections on Never Events and Public Reporting.**

<http://i.cdn.turner.com/cnn/2009/images/11/18/hcbill.pdf>

HR 3590 – SEC. 3001 page 624 – Measures Healthcare Acquired Conditions, including infections.

HR 3590 – SEC. 3025 page 775 – Requires public reporting of all hospital readmissions.

HR 3590 – SEC. 3015 page 721 – The Secretary shall make available to the public, through standardized Internet websites, performance information summarizing data on quality measures.

HR 3590 -- SEC. 2702 page 526 – Payment Adjustment for Health Care-Acquired Conditions– Requires adopting of Medicare Rules for non-payment of Never Events.

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**Can one eliminate all Healthcare Acquired Infections?** Probably not, but you can come very close. Central line associated blood infections were reduced at the Drexel University College of Medicine, Pittsburgh, USA from a 10.5 to 1.2 infections per 1000 line days or patients reduced from 49 to 6 and mortalities for 19 to 1. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez/17987871> Pennsylvania is at the forefront of public reporting of healthcare acquired infections.

## **Colorado Hospital Association (CHA), Policy on National Quality Forum's Never Events**

The CHA principles on never events encourages hospitals not to charge for services associated with these events during current or future admissions.

<http://www.cha.com/images/stories/NeverEvents/03-21-08principles.pdf>

## **Joint Commission – Has Competition from a New Competitor - DNV**

DNV bases its accreditation on standards from the International Organization on Standards. Hospitals will be ready for the ISO 9001 Certification. <http://www.nxtbook.com/ygsreprints/ygs/modh-1-25337720/>

## **New Infant Mortality Data.**

The US has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the industrialized world – ranks 30th. A new CDC report

compensates for differences in treatment and reporting.

- In the US, one in 8 births in the United States were born preterm, compared with 1 in 18 births in Ireland and Finland.
- The US had a higher percentage of preterm births than in Europe.
- The US compares favorably to Europe in mortality rates in preterm infants but has a higher mortality rate in term infants.
- The main cause of the high infant mortality rate in the US is the higher percentage of preterm infants.

View Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db23.htm>

View Updated Trend Tables as of Nov 2009

[ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Publications/Health\\_US/hs08tables/Table024.xls](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Publications/Health_US/hs08tables/Table024.xls)

CDC News Brief: Late preterm births on the rise in the US.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db24.htm>

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## Shortage of Surgeons.

Surgeons are becoming in short supply. It is predicted that by 2030 the US will need 100,000 more surgeons in seven subspecialties. Read More: [http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/710155\\_print](http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/710155_print)

View video on presentation by Dr. David Richardson from the American College of Surgeons (2009 Health Watch USA Conference ) <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2009/richardson/richardson.htm>

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## Healthcare Acquired Infections:

MRSA Carriers have a higher rate of post operative infections. This study supports the importance of preoperative identification of carriers so appropriate intervention can be initiated.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19190058>

The American Hospital Association reported that a hospital in Lancaster, PA had a C. Diff. infection rate of 1.2 cases per 1000. To demonstrate further excellence, the hospital instituted even more vigorous standards and protocols which dropped their rate even lower to 0.6 per 1000. The State of Kentucky compares poorly which has a rate of 21.6 infections per 1000 patients.

The argument that infections should not be included in non-reimbursable healthcare acquired conditions because they cannot be prevented, is losing credibility as studies are being published which show that a significant percentage of these infections are preventable.

<http://www.hpoe.org/PDFs/lancaster%20general.pdf>

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

A new study from the University of Pennsylvania reports a MRSA strain that is five times deadlier than others. This confirms the opinion of Health Watch USA that the attitude that we cannot do anything for MRSA since it is so widespread will only lead to the emergence of more virulent MRSA strains.

[http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/IDSA/16781?userid=80830&impressionId=1257314525219&utm\\_source=mSpoke&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=DailyHeadlines&utm\\_content=Group1](http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/IDSA/16781?userid=80830&impressionId=1257314525219&utm_source=mSpoke&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DailyHeadlines&utm_content=Group1)

Reports are starting to surface on the dangers of fostering multi-resistant bacteria because of overuse of antibiotics.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSTRE5A927820091110?feedType=nl&feedName=ushealth1100>

**This is one of the main reasons that preoperative usage of antibiotics should only be used when indicated and not on every patient. It is also why we need to do surveillance cultures as opposed to treating every patient with antibiotics.**

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## **Lack of Health Insurance**

Harvard Study Finds 45,000 deaths annually are linked to lack of healthcare insurance.

[http://www.pnhp.org/news/2009/september/harvard\\_study\\_finds\\_.php](http://www.pnhp.org/news/2009/september/harvard_study_finds_.php)

View Updated Trend Table as of Nov 2009 – US Citizens with no health insurance by State:

[ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Publications/Health\\_US/hs08tables/Table151.xls](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Publications/Health_US/hs08tables/Table151.xls)

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## **CDC Releases rates of Obesity and Diabetes in US States and Counties**

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5845a2.htm>

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## **2009 Conference on Healthcare Transparency and Patient Advocacy**

Attendance of over 220 participants. Some of the presenters will be posted online for viewing. The first four are listed below. Dr Garrett Adams, Twila Brase, Mona Lori, Dr. Adair and Pat Tanner to be posted in next newsletter.

- Dr Daniel Mongiardo (KY Lieutenant Governor) – Electronic Medical Records.
- Dr Joycelyn Elders (Past US Surgeon General) – Healthcare Reform & our Healthcare System
- Dr Dave Richardson (American College of Surgeons) – Surgeon Shortage.
- Mr Joseph Miller, JD (Antitrust Div. US Asst. Attorney General) – The Certificate of Need
- Nadeem Esmail (Fraser Institute) – The Canadian Healthcare System
- Mona Lori (Out of Pocket) -- Cost Transparency in Healthcare



To View Presentations Go To: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2009/index.html>

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