



Health Watch USA Newsletter

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Healthcare Acquired Infections:

Public and Government Pressure and Shift in Attitudes have Reduced Hospital Infections in Massachusetts.

A reduction in rates of ventilator acquired pneumonia was observed. In addition, 50 percent reductions in infections after orthopedic cases and 80% reductions in MRSA were reported by some facilities. Senior Vice President at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement stated, "The excuses vanished,"

http://www.boston.com/news/health/articles/2009/11/22/mass_hospitals_make_headway_on_patient_infections/

Henry Ford Hospital reports a Supra-MRSA Strain: The new strain is five times more deadly and 10 to 30% of patients who develop septicemia are dead within one month.

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_91327.html

<http://www.emaxhealth.com/1020/39/34298/mrsa-strain-causing-higher-rates-death.html>

Community Associated MRSA on the rise in hospitals. There has been greater than a seven-fold increase in Community Associated MRSA in hospitals. Instead of replacing Hospital-Associated MRSA the Community Associated MRSA is adding to the total presence of MRSA in hospitals.

<http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=52017>

http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/15/12/1925_cme_activity.htm

<http://cme.medscape.com/viewarticle/712510>

Increase in MRSA Infections (Total cases treated NOT just healthcare acquired).

In California, "from 1999 to 2007, the number of (MRSA) cases increased from 13,000 to 52,000. The largest increase in MRSA cases came from home admissions in the young to mid-adult range with skin infections."

<http://www.thebusinessjournal.com/index.php/health/3257-report-focuses-on-hospital-staph-infections.html>

CDC Guidelines to prevent Urinary Tract Infections:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/dpac_uti_pc.html

CDC: Direct Medical Costs of Healthcare Acquired Infections:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/Scott_CostPaper.pdf

Little Savings of Electronic Medical Records in the Hospital Setting.

A debate is ongoing if EMR can save money by preventing duplication of tests and costly medical errors. The jury is still out and EMR is a technology showing great promise that is in its infancy.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/712855?sssdmh=dm1.560400&src=nldne&uac=123591HV>

A similar finding was reported at our 2009 Conference by Lt Gov Dr Mongiardo who also stated that in physicians office, the use of such systems may slow the doctor down, thus eliminating any cost savings. EMRs need further evaluation and testing.

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2009/mongiardo/mongiardo.htm>

Poor Nursing Home Care

New GAO report gives poor rankings to 10 of Kentucky's Nursing Homes. The report stated that the most poorly performing nursing homes tended to be chain affiliated and for-profit. Figure 4 (Page 19) of the report, showed that Kentucky had the second highest (poorest) range of any of the US States.

To read the report go to <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/20090800-gaonursinghome-GAO-09-689.pdf>

Health insurance premiums more than doubled since 2000, a rate three times higher than growth in wages.

Healthcare reform stated to have benefits for small business by giving relief to high insurance premiums.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/12/20091203a.html>

2009 Conference on Healthcare Transparency and Patient Advocacy

The conference had record attendance of over 220 participants. Some of the presenter's lectures and PowerPoints have been posted online for viewing. The presentations which are posted are listed below.

- 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) – The 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
- Dr Garrett Adams – Physicians for a National Healthcare Program – The Single Payer System
- Twila Brase – President of the Citizens' Council on Healthcare – Healthcare Reform
- Elissa Schuler Adair, PhD, Manager of Healthcare Research for Consumer Reports Magazine (Consumer Union) – Healthcare Transparency
- Pat Tanner – Past President of the Kentucky Nurses Association – The Nursing Shortage

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

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