



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Jan. 10, 2010

Is the US Falling Behind the World in MRSA Prevention?

Comment by Dr. John Jernigan (CDC Chief of the Interventions and Evaluation Section) comments on the US MRSA intervention compared to that of Norway.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/12/23/tech/main6014559.shtml>

State of Ohio Now Reporting Patient Safety Data:

The state of Ohio is now reporting patient safety data, including anesthesia complications, facility acquired bed sores, foreign objects left during surgery, certain surgical site infections, and C Difficile and MRSA rates which are acquired at a facility.

<http://publicapps.odh.ohio.gov/facilityinformation/HospitalMeasuresHomePage.aspx>

Tennessee. Issues first hospital acquired infections report.

http://health.state.tn.us/Downloads/TN_HAI_Report_2008_Jan_Dec_final.pdf

Healthcare Acquired Infections – Other News:

State of Maine now requiring mandatory surveillance cultures of high-risk patients:

<http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/134223.html>

However, recent articles are now showing the efficacy of identifying and intervening on MRSA positive patients.

(1) Loviglio J. Doctors say superbug can be controlled. The Washington Post. Associated Press. Feb. 6, 2007.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/06/AR2007020601900_pf.html

(2) Robicsek A, Beaumont JL, Paule SM, Hacek DM, Thomson RB Jr, Kaul KL, King P, Peterson LR. Universal surveillance for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in 3 affiliated hospitals. Ann Intern Med. 2008 Mar 18;148(6):409-18. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez/18347349>

(3) Evans M. Testimony given to the Kentucky State Senate Health and Welfare Committee meeting on March 6, 2008. http://www.healthwatchusa.org/mrsa/mrsa_presentations.html

(4) Trotter J. New Mexico MRSA Collaborative. New Mexico MRSA Collaborative Celebrates the Conclusion of Year-long Efforts. July 17, 2009. http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/200907-NM-MRSA_Press_release.pdf

(5) Shukla S, Nixon M, Acharya M, Korim MT, Pandey R. Incidence of MRSA surgical-site infection in MRSA carriers in an orthopaedic trauma unit. J Bone Joint Surg Br. 2009 Feb;91(2):225-8. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19190058>

(6) McNamara D. MRSA Screening Used to Decrease SSIs. Surgery News. American College of Surgeons. 2009(5) p1-2. <http://www.facs.org/surgerynews/0209.pdf>

State of Washington now listing hospital acquired infections on their website.

http://www.seattlepi.com/local/413941_infection07.html

Health Watch USA posts a sample bill for modification and consideration by Kentucky.

Kentucky needs to move on this issue or be left behind. Ohio and Tennessee are way ahead of our State. <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/20091130-KY-HAI-Bill.pdf>

See related Op-Ed Courier Journal: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/20090727-CJ-MRSA.pdf> See Letter of Support for Public Reporting from Major Medical Organizations:

http://www.healthwatchusa.org/mrsa/pdf_downloads/20090722-Experts_Public-Reporting-HAIs.pdf

41.5 percent of physicians reported using all or partial EMR/EHR systems

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/hestats.htm>

Health Insurance in the US:

The CDC Reports that of adults aged 19 to 65 years of age, 19.4% had no health insurance at the time of the interview and 23.7% were uninsured for at least part of the year.

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/ER_Booklet.htm

A survey conducted by The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky found that the survey found “37% of white and 55% of African American Kentuckians ages 18 –64 reported going without coverage now or at some time in the past year.” <http://admin.cms2005.com/docServer.aspx?f=NDc1Njl1MzA=>

High-Value Hospitals (low cost and high quality) to get Paid More:

A new initiative in the healthcare reform bills will pay hospitals more for providing high quality efficient care.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/05/AR2010010503572.html?wpisrc=nl_pmpolitics

Hospital Employment of Physicians Creating Further Conflicts.

Hospital employment of physicians is creating new conflicts of interest with patients being charged facility fees during doctor visits.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703819904574555723216593610.html>

CDC Issues new US Death Rates: In 2007, the age-adjusted death rate for the United States reached a record low of 760.3 per 100,000 populations. Life expectancy at birth reached a record high of 77.9 years. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db26.htm>

2010 Conference Topic: Value Purchasing and Hospital Acquired Conditions.

Date: Nov 12, 2010. (Nov. 19th is the backup date).

To submit papers for the conference please send them to:

contact-mail@healthwatchusa.org

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>

Kevin T Kavanagh, MD, MS, FACS
Health Watch USA

To view previous newsletters go to: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/newsletters.htm>

To subscribe to this newsletter, go to: <http://www.onlineent.org/lists/?p=subscribe&id=2>

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