



# Health Watch USA Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Jan. 25, 2010

## **OIG Memorandum on State Public Reporting of Hospital Acquired Conditions**

A total of 7 States have extensive public reporting of Hospital Acquired Conditions:

<http://www.oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-09-00360.pdf>

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## **Hospital Acquired Infections – Recent Articles of Interest.**

### **Public Reporting of Healthcare Acquired Infections Works.**

Newly released 2008 data by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Health on healthcare acquired infections has been reported by the news media in local communities to highlight how their hospitals are doing. Here is an example of a report from Erie, PA (New report compares Pennsylvania hospital infection rates by David Bruce).

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100114/NEWS02/301149907/-1/ETN>

### **CBS report outlines the problems caused from antibiotic overusage and the aggressive protocols followed by Norway to combat the MRSA epidemic.**

“Doctors track each case of MRSA by its individual strain, interviewing patients about where they've been and who they've been with, testing anyone who has been in contact with them.”

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

### **Canadian University is using Universal Screening for MRSA.**

“All patients entering the University Health Network's three hospitals in Toronto are tested for MRSA, as do some hospitals in Britain and the U.S.”

<http://license.icopyright.net/user/viewFreeUse.act?fuid=NjY3NTk1NA==>

### **Evolution of MRSA During Hospital Transmission and Intercontinental Spread**

Science. 2010 Jan 22;327(5964):469-74. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20093474>

New study shows a significant amount of hospital MRSA is imported from patients entering the hospital. Another piece of evidence which supports patient screening.

Read Blog Report Describing Study: <http://drugresistantstaph.blogspot.com/2010/01/mrsa-in-journal-science-spread.html>

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## **Health Insurance**

The percentage of those covered with Private Health Insurance has fallen almost in half since 1998. Those covered by public insurance has doubled in size.

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/InsuranceGraft-1997-2007.pdf>

## **Doctors and the Mayo Clinic are abandoning Medicare**

Low Payments, Regulations and RAC cited as reasons:

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2010/01/14/c-l-gray-medicare-doctors-deserting-obama/>

## **Healthcare Spending**

Health spending in the United States grew 4.4 percent in 2008, to \$2.3 trillion or \$7,681 per person.

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=3570>

## **Expanded focus of National Practitioner's Databank is planned.**

Implementation sought by Public Citizen for Section 1921 of the Social Security Act.

<http://www.citizen.org/publications/release.cfm?ID=7703>

## **CT Scans and risk of causing cancer**

New study in Archives of Internal Medicine estimates that 29,000 future cancers will be caused by CT scan studies performed in 2007. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20008689>

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## **Health Watch USA News**

**2010 Conference Topic: Value Purchasing and Hospital Acquired Conditions.**

**Date: Nov 12, 2010. (Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> is the backup date).**

To submit papers for the conference please send them to:

[contact-mail@healthwatchusa.org](mailto:contact-mail@healthwatchusa.org)

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**Proposed Statue for Public Reporting of HAI for Kentucky.**

This is posted as a resource to be modified and used as a basis for legislation.

This sample has been constructed from prior proposed Kentucky and Federal Legislation.

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/20100118-KY%20HAI%20bill.pdf>

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**Health Watch USA**

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