



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org March 8, 2010

Healthcare Reform

It looks more likely that the process of reconciliation will be used to enact part of the proposed health care reform bill. President Obama's Bill is thought to be similar to the Senate Bill. Reconciliation is, however, reserved for issues which affect the US Budget. Thus, it does not appear all of the Senate Bill can be voted on using this process and there is resistance against using this process to enact healthcare reform. Below is a link from the Washington Post regarding what is in Obama's Healthcare Proposal

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/graphic/2010/02/23/GR2010022301104.html?sid=ST2010022204809>

It is unclear to HW USA if insurance reform can take place under this method. Purchasing alliances according to a Kaiser Health Tracking Poll (Feb 2010), have bipartisan support.

<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/8051.cfm> One of the first to propose such alliances was Senator Tom Coburn with Co-Sponsors of Senator Lamar Alexander and Senator Jim Bunning in S 1099 / HR 2025.

The link below is a summary.

http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=77b590f2-0686-4904-aef8-0866cc47092d

http://coburn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=b8876db7-2be0-4c84-b833-3d77dc4afa83

The link below is to the text of the bill.

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.1099:/>

There appears to be bipartisan support for purchasing alliances. Of course, the devil is in the details but there appears to be common ground on this issue.

Hospital Acquired Infections

Multiple Antibiotic Resistant Gram-Negative Bacteria May Be on the Rise.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/27/business/27germ.html?scp=1&sq=Rising%20threat%20of%20infections%20unfazed%20by%20antibiotics&st=cse>

AHRQ Patient Safety Primer on Healthcare Associated Infections

<http://psnet.ahrq.gov/primer.aspx?primerID=7>

Consumer Report Article, "Deadly infections, Hospitals can lower the risk, but many fail to act".

<http://www.consumerreports.org/health/doctors-hospitals/hospital-infection/deadly-infections-hospitals-can-lower-the-danger/overview/deadly-infections-hospitals-can-lower-the-danger.htm>

CDC Commentary: Preventing Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/713709>

How states have spent their Healthcare Acquired Infection (HAI) grant??

<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/recoveryact/map.html>

Kentucky HAI Grant Information: State Contact -- Robert L Brawley, MD, MPH, Kentucky Department for Public Health, 275 East Main Street, MS: HS2GW-C, Frankfort, KY 40621-0001

Activity A: The Kentucky Department of Health (KDPH) will establish the Kentucky State and Regional Infection Prevention and Epidemiology Program (K-STRIPE) and will jump-start state-level healthcare-associated infection (HAI) prevention activities. Major efforts during the project period included hiring a full-time Kentucky HAI prevention plan coordinator who will manage and coordinate other project activities directed toward HAI prevention and appoint a multidisciplinary K-STRIPE advisory board. Kentucky developed and submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services its state HAI plan.

Hospital Acquired Conditions – The poor state of voluntary facility reporting:

OIG Report (March 8, 2010) In surveyed hospitals, patient diagnosis codes were inaccurate or absent for 7 of the 11 Medicare hospital-acquired conditions (HAC) identified by physician reviewers and reviewed hospitals did not generate incident reports for 93 percent of the events.

<http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-08-00221.pdf>

High Insurance Premiums

Insurance companies have requested premium hikes of 56% in Mich, 24% in Conn, 23% in Maine and 39% in California. <http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/insuranceprospers/index.html>

About 2,500 Humana Workers Face Losing Jobs

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20100217/BUSINESS/2170379/About-2-500-Humana-workers-face-losing-their-jobs>

High Tech, High Cost, Low Payoff ??

Results Unproven, However, Robotic Surgery Wins Converts

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/14/health/14robot.html?th=&emc=th&pagewanted=all>

Lower Hospital Cost Not Always Lower Quality

More evidence mounts that high cost and high utilization is not always associated with higher quality. Lower cost facilities can also deliver high quality care.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/717332?sssdmh=dm1.593744&src=nldne&uac=123591HV>

<http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/170/4/340>

FDA Tackles Radiation Safety

FDA may require imaging machines to display patient dosages. Risk of radiation for medical imaging studies may cause 29,000 new cancers each year. More CT Scans and Radiation for Medical Imaging are also associated with high cost and possible increased risks.

http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/life/20100210/radiation10_st.art.htm

Other recent references on this subject in previous HW USA Newsletters:

- 1) Projected cancer risks from computed tomographic scans performed in the United States in 2007. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20008689>
 - 2) Computed Tomography — An Increasing Source of Radiation Exposure
<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/357/22/2277>
 - 3) CT, PET and Nuclear Medicine Scan dosages listed by American Imaging Management
<http://www.americanimaging.net/safety/PatientExposureTool.html>
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Health Watch USA 2010 Conference

2010 Conference Topic: Value Purchasing and Hospital Acquired Conditions. Date: Nov 19, 2010, Lexington Embassy Suites on Newtown Pike, Lexington, Kentucky.

Confirmed Speakers Include:

- 1) Richard Wild, MD, JD, Chief Medical Officer, Atlanta Regional Office Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), will present on “CMS Perspectives on Value Based Purchasing, P4P, and Meaningful Use of a Electronic Health Records.”
- 2) Alicia Cole, Patient Advocate, Actress, and Necrotizing Fasciitis Survivor - A Hospital Acquired Condition.
- 3) Joycelyn Elders, MD, former US Surgeon General
- 4) Marvin Feit, PhD, Editor of the Journal of Health and Social Policy

For more information go to www.healthconference.org

To submit papers for the conference please send them to:
contact-mail@healthwatchusa.org

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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