



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org April 11, 2010

Healthcare Reform: The Senate Healthcare Reform Bill has been enacted with modifications under the Reconciliation Act. A good summary of the law can be found at:

<http://www.kff.org/healthreform/8061.cfm>

1) Most of the controversy over the law is in regards to the insurance industry and insurance reform. The lack of competition and high rates in the individual markets appear to be the impetus for the change <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2010/03/08/bil20308.htm> The reform bill took a regulatory approach in addressing this issue. Marketing across state lines or removal of anti-trust exemptions (proposed in house bill) were not enacted. <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2010/03/08/gvsc0309.htm>

Interestingly the healthcare reform initiative appeared dead after Senator Brown's election, until Anthem (Well point in California) decided to raise rates in the individual market by 39%. <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2010/03/01/bil20301.htm> This reignited the effort, bolstered the Obama administration and changed the course of our nation. It is fascinating, how often major events in history can be traced back to a single action of an organization or individual.

2) The value purchasing and transparency initiatives which have been a major priority for HW USA are included in the current bill. Specifically, the ability for the Federal Government to mandate that Medicaid adopt Medicare Regulations regarding non-payment of healthcare acquired conditions has been passed. HW USA was one of the major initiators and facilitators of this policy with regional and national efforts dating back to the Spring of 2008.

3) However, HW USA views the major transformation taking place in healthcare is not the healthcare reform bill but the continued integration of our healthcare system with the progressive disappearance of the private practitioner. This is being driven by the charging of facility fees along with physician fees by hospital-employed practitioners which places the private practitioner at a competitive disadvantage; and by the impending Medicare cut or constant threat of Medicare cutting physician fees by 21%.

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

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2010/04/05/gvl20405.htm>

Hospital Errors:

Health Grades Seventh Annual Patient Safety Study in American Hospitals has been release.

<http://www.healthgrades.com/media/DMS/pdf/PatientSafetyInAmericanHospitalsStudy2010.pdf>

Of note, there still may be significant underreporting of Hospital Acquired Conditions, Questions regarding the efficacy of voluntary reporting have again surfaced after the publication of the OIG Report (March 8, 2010)

The report found that 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>

Healthcare Acquired Infections:

MRSA colonization found in 4% of healthcare workers.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/719841?src=rss>

MRSA colonization found in 6% of admissions to John Hopkins pediatric ICU

<http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/16/4/647.htm>

C Diff surpasses MRSA as a leading cause of nosocomial infection in community hospital:

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/719053>

Michigan hospitals found drop in central line infection rates using check lists. <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2010/03/01/prsa0301.htm>

Public Reporting of infections is Working in Pennsylvania – The

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/176144.php>

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.

Cofirmed 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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