



# Health Watch USA Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Aug 8, 2010

## 2010 HW USA Conference – Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Agenda and Speakers Finalized and Brochure Available.

- Download Brochure: [www.healthconference.org/2010conference\\_downloads/HCTPA\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.healthconference.org/2010conference_downloads/HCTPA_Brochure.pdf)
- To Register: [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org)

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## New Predictions - Medicare Trust Fund's Viability Extended Another 12 Years, Will Not Be Exhausted Until 2029.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/05/AR2010080500643.html>

## HW USA Op-Ed in Lexington Herald Leader on the Kentucky State Healthcare Plan to Prevent Healthcare Acquired Infections.

<http://www.kentucky.com/2010/07/25/1362616/physician-wash-thy-hands.html>

## Home Testing for MRSA now Available in England.

This allows MRSA to be eradicated in the community. MRSA is treated similar to any other epidemic.

[http://www.bluehorizonmedical.co.uk/shop/article\\_1/1%3A-Blue-Horizon-Medicals-MRSA-home-screening-test-kit.html?shop\\_param=cid%3D3%26aid%3D1%26](http://www.bluehorizonmedical.co.uk/shop/article_1/1%3A-Blue-Horizon-Medicals-MRSA-home-screening-test-kit.html?shop_param=cid%3D3%26aid%3D1%26)

## New Book Traces the History of the Healthcare Industry's Response to the MRSA Epidemic.

[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2010-05-08/news/sc-health-0505-superbug-20100505\\_1\\_mrsa-community-associated-superbug/2](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2010-05-08/news/sc-health-0505-superbug-20100505_1_mrsa-community-associated-superbug/2)

## New articles on MRSA:

#1. Universal screening is cost effective

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/652524>

#2. MRSA spreads fast. Underscores the need for fast identification (preferably before scheduled admission) and decontamination once carriers are found.

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/652775>

#3. The importance of targeting healthcare workers for surveillance (Article from Spain)

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/654003>

## **Dr Oz in July Recommended the Following to Prevent Healthcare Acquired Infections:**

- #1. Ask your healthcare provider to wash their hands.
- #2. Only use Antibiotics when you absolutely have to.
- #3. Get out of the hospital as soon as possible.

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## **Final Rule Issued By CMS Incorporates HAC Into CMS's Value Purchasing Initiative.**

Hospital's participating in the Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update (RHQDAPU) will be evaluated by eight new measures which reflect Hospital Acquired Conditions. 99% of hospitals that participate in the inpatient prospective payment system also participate in this program.

[http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/201007-downloads/APIC Comments on IPPS FY 2011.pdf](http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/201007-downloads/APIC%20Comments%20on%20IPPS%20FY%202011.pdf)

- \* Foreign object retained after surgery
- \* Air embolism
- \* Blood incompatibility
- \* Pressure ulcer stages III and IV
- \* Falls and trauma
- \* Vascular catheter-associated infection
- \* Catheter-associated urinary tract infection (UTI)
- \* Manifestations of poor glycemic control

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## **New Consumer-Oriented Website is Launched by The Dept. of Health and Human Services** <http://www.healthcare.gov>

On the site, consumers will learn about healthcare prevention, how to compare quality, find insurance options and the new healthcare reform law is explained.

## **The Dept. HHS's Hospital Compare Site has been improved and expanded.**

<http://hospitalcompare.hhs.gov/>

The home page now has you enter your location and finds your local hospitals. From there you can select up to three facilities to compare.

## **AHRQ State Snapshot Healthcare Quality Website has Been Expanded to Include New Data on Health Insurance Coverage.** <http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov/snaps09/index.jsp>

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## **Significant Risks for Avandia are Found by the FDA**

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/724882?sssdmh=dm1.625923&src=nldne&uac=123591HV>

## **Shortage of General Surgeons, Underscored in Recent Article.**

<http://www.journalacs.org/article/S1072-7515%2810%2900104-3/abstract>

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100711/NEWS/307119990/-1#>

The numbers of general surgeons per population is decreasing (26% decrease) as are the International Medical Graduates.

## **Doctor Rating Systems are Becoming Commonplace but Still in Infancy and Accuracy is Questioned.**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/02/AR2010080203773.html>

## **Obesity in Kentucky is Reported in the Washington Post**

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/11/AR2010071103524.html?wpisrc=nl\\_pmheadline](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/11/AR2010071103524.html?wpisrc=nl_pmheadline)

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## **Health Watch USA 2010 Conference**

### **- Register at [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org)**

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) Dr Jim Battles, PhD, Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, AHRQ - Presenting on Quality and Safety Provisions in the New Health Care Reform Law.
- 3) Jill Rosenthal, Program Director, National Academy for State Health Policy -- Presenting on State Medicaid Policy on Hospital Acquired Conditions.
- 4) Alicia Cole, Patient Advocate, Actress, and Necrotizing Fasciitis Survivor - A Hospital Acquired Condition.
- 5) Joycelyn Elders, MD, former US Surgeon General
- 6) Marvin Feit, PhD, Editor of the Journal of Health and Social Policy

Continuing education credits will be applied for RN, MD, JD, Social Work and Human Resource Managers.

To register go to [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org)

To register as an exhibitor go to <http://healthconference.org/exhibits.htm>

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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