



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Sept 12, 2010

2010 HW USA Conference – Nov. 19th, 2010, Embassy Suites, Lexington, KY

Agenda and speakers are finalized and conference brochure is available.

Keynotes:



Richard Wild, MD, JD, Medical Director from the Atlanta Regional Office for the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Jim Battles, PhD, from AHRQ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality) Presenting on Quality and Safety Provisions in the New Healthcare Reform Law.

Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Past US Surgeon General.

Lisa McGiffert from Consumer Union presenting on Healthcare Acquired Infections.

Jeannie Cimiotti, DNSc, RN Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research, University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing, presenting on the California Nurse to Patient Ratios.

Download Brochure:

www.healthconference.org/2010conference_downloads/HCTPA_Brochure.pdf

To Register: www.healthconference.org

New Website on Never Events

www.neverevents.org Learn about never events and hospital acquired conditions and how many can be prevented.

Little has been done since the publication of the Institute of Medicine's report in 2000 which found that approximately 98,000 patients die each year from hospital acquired conditions. The CDC estimates



that there are 1.7 million hospital acquired infections each year that cause nearly 100,000 deaths, which costs our US healthcare system between 28 billion to 33 billion dollars each year. Each infection can produce an additional cost of hospitalization of between \$32,000 and \$38,656.

Health Watch USA has been Featured in Two Major News Outlets

Aug 24, 2010 'Super bug' that's resistant to antibiotics threatens hospital patients - The Washington Post.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/23/AR2010082303562.html>

Aug 30, 2010 The Best & Worse Places to Get Sick - The Street (dot) Com .

<http://www.thestreet.com/story/10846745/1/the-best-worst-places-to-get-sick.html>

Freidell Committee Endorses the Policy of Public Reporting of Healthcare Acquired Infections

"We believe communities should know the infection rates of their hometown hospitals, as well as what progress those hospitals are making in addressing this concern."

Aug 30, 2010 Urge hospitals to reduce infection rates. Lexington Herald Leader

<http://www.kentucky.com/2010/08/30/1412625/urge-hospitals-to-reduce-infection.html>

This is a comment on HW USA's Op Ed in Lexinton Herald Leader on July 25, 2010:

http://www.healthwatchusa.org/Op-Eds_HWUSA_PDF/2010-4-physician-wash-thy-hands.pdf

Joint Commission Stresses the Importance of Public Pressure in the Assurance of Healthcare Quality

Mark Chasen, MD, President of the Joint Commission, was asked what will really cause a change in healthcare quality.

http://www.cjr.org/campaign_desk/keeping_an_eye_on_hospital_safety.php

"Chassen replied that the pressure will have to come from the public in the same way that public pressure created environmental protection laws..... Someone needs to call attention to patient safety the way Rachel Carson warned of environmental disaster in Silent Spring...."

One in Four Patients Re-hospitalized with the Same Condition

Over a 2-year period, roughly one-quarter of all hospital patients were re-admitted for the same conditions that prompted their initial hospitalization, according to the latest data from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/jul10/0710RA1.htm>

New Data from AHRQ on the Cost of Healthcare Acquired Infections

Adults who developed health care-associated infections (HAIs) due to medical or surgical care while in the hospital in 2007 had to stay an average of 19 days longer than adults who didn't develop an infection.

On average, the cost of a hospital stay of an adult patient who developed an HAI was about \$43,000 more expensive than the stay of a patient without an HAI (\$52,096 versus \$9,377).

<http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb94.pdf>

Funding of Healthcare Reform Becoming a Concern

Secretary Sebelius sends a letter regarding the increasing cost of Insurance premiums.

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/09/20100909a.html>

***** Is Medicare double dipping and applying the same funds into two pots??

-- No it isn't

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/02/AR2010090203983.html>

-- Yes it is

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/26/AR2010082605261.html>

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2009/12/cbo-democrats-double-counting-medicare-savings/32538/>

***** Healthcare reform costs and Medicare may continue to increase as a percentage of GNP but more citizens will be insured

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100909/ap_on_bi_ge/us_health_care_spending

The Doctor Pay Fix Now Estimated to Cost 330 Billion Dollars over 10 Years

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/118xx/doc11820/CrapoLtr.pdf>

The White House Endorsing Health Care Integration

The White House is advising physicians to accept a life in Big Medicine as a hospital employee or member of a large group practice in the wake of health care reform

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/727420>

NEJM Article Recommends Disclosure of Medical Mistakes to Patients

"Disclosure should be the norm....Faithful adherence to these duties may increase the public's positive perception of the institution and its integrity"

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMhle1003134>

Full disclosure of Medical Errors Did Not Increase Total Claims or Liability Costs <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20713789>
