



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Oct 4, 2010

Member of the National Quality Forum and a designated "Community Leader" for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

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

Health Watch USA has been accepted into the National Quality Forum and Proposes a NEW Serious Reportable Event

As HW USA's first initiative we have submitted a new



Serious Reportable Event: "Incorrect Placement of a Feeding (gastrointestinal tube) or ventilation tube which results in patient harm."

[View Acceptance Letter](#)

Pat Tanner has been appointed HW USA's Committee Chair for the NQF.

HW USA is Helping to Formulate National Policy on HAI



Health Watch USA was invited to the "Progress Toward Eliminating Healthcare Associated Infections" summit in Arlington, VA. Pictured on the right is Assistant Deputy Secretary Don Wright.



One of the interesting facts is that 3000 acute care facilities which represent well over 50% of all hospitals in the nation are now reporting Hospital Acquired Infections using the National Patient Safety Network.

Goals are a 50% reduction in MRSA and CLABSI (Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infections) by 2013; a 25% reduction in CAUTI (Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections) and a 30% reduction in C. Diff infections.

Multiple round table sessions were held to outline priorities and barriers to achieving these goals.

However, hip and knee infections are increasing at an exponential rate. CLABSI are now required reporting for participation in the prospective payment system, which almost all hospitals participate in. In addition, surgical site infections will be required to be report on Jan 1, 2012. These are deep fascial or organ space infections, not skin infection.

October 2, 1020 HW USA Meeting

Rosemary Gibson noted author of the "Wall of Silence" and the "Treatment Trap" presented via SKYPE at HW USA's Oct 2nd Meeting. She pointed out that there are three types of Quality Problems in medicine. The first is underutilization of needed treatment and tests, the second are medical errors and the third is overuse of unnecessary



tests. The latter can be just as devastating to the patient as the first. (Picture on the right shows HW USA members Pat Tanner and Joe Graber in from of Rosemary Gibson presenting via SKYPE).

An example of over use of medical tests is the recent prob by the FDA into the alleged pressuring of scientists for approval of high tech CT Scanners.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Feds-reopen-probe-into-apf-2838405684.html>

The Treatment Trap, About the Book: <http://www.treatmenttrap.org/>

Joint Commission's Annual Report on Quality And Safety is Now Available for Download

Most parameters were reported to be improved, one which was not was that only 67.5 percent of facilities provided antibiotics to intensive care unit pneumonia patients within 24 hours of arrival.

http://www.jointcommission.org/NR/rdonlyres/D60136A2-6A59-4009-A6F3-04E2FF230991/0/2010_Annual_Report.pdf

New Multi-Drug Resistant Organism has Appeared

The New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase 1 (NDM-1) first emerged in India, Pakistan and the UK. <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/728118>

A Record Number of Americans are Uninsured

Last year almost 50 million people, or one in six US residents were uninsured - according to the US Census Bureau. http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-09-17-uninsured17_ST_N.htm
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/releases.htm>

New Website on Never Events has been posted 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.

Upcoming Presentations

Oct 12, 2010: Health Care Acquired Conditions -- Topic of Jack Pattie Show Oct 12th, 2010, 9:00 am to 10:00 am.

Nov 6, 2010: Health Watch USA Mtg.

Nov 19, 2010: Health Watch USA's Conference on Healthcare Transparency and Patient Advocacy-- Embassy Suites in Lexington Kentucky. www.healthconference.org.

Jan 15, 2019: Health Watch USA Meeting -- Helen Haskell, Mothers Against Medical Error.

Feb 12, 2010: Health Watch USA Meeting -- Dr Barry Chaiken, Chief Medical Officer from DocsNetwork Ltd, Boston Massachusetts on the Transition of Healthcare reform
<http://wistechnology.com/dhc/2010/people/>



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>