



# Health Watch USA Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Nov 1, 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 on Healthcare Policy and Value Purchasing



Nov. 19th, 2010, Embassy Suites, Lexington, KY

[www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org)

**Keynote Speaker: Richard Wild, MD, JD - Medical Director for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services - Atlanta Regional Office.**

**Cost is \$50 including box lunch and 6.5 hrs of CEUs for MDs, Nurses, Dentists, Attorney's, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Nursing Home Administrators and Human Resource Managers. Approval for CEUs for Pharmacists and Social Workers are Pending.**

Agenda, speakers and conference information are available at [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org) .

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.

Jill Rosenthal, Program Director, National Academy for State Health Policy --  
Presenting on State Medicaid Policy on Hospital Acquired Conditions.

Download Brochure:

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

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## **HW USA Presents on Public Reporting of Healthcare Acquired Conditions at Kentucky Interim Joint (House & Senate) Committee on Health and Welfare**

Based upon population, it is estimated that Kentucky would have 23,000 hospital acquired infections and almost 1,400 deaths from these infections each year. View video of presentation (Sound & Slides) <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/20100120-KY-House-Senate/20101020-KY-HAI-HW-Cmt.htm>

Download PDF of Presentation

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/20100120-KY-House-Senate/HAI-PublicReporting-20101020-Final.pdf>

Download PDF of Handout and Documents

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/20100120-KY-House-Senate/20101020-HAI-PublicReporting-HandOut-Final.pdf>

The State of Arizona, with a population of 6 million, has been reported to have 2,000 deaths from hospital acquired infections each year.

[http://azstarnet.com/news/science/health-med-fit/article\\_4f6cf025-2383-5724-a595-7a40335362a6.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/science/health-med-fit/article_4f6cf025-2383-5724-a595-7a40335362a6.html)

On a very sad note. One of our most active members and advocates, Catherine Harris had developed a hospital acquired MRSA infection after her total knee surgery. Luckily, it does not appear to involve the surgery site and we are hopeful for her full recovery.

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## **Hospital Acquired Conditions Should be Rare and Unacceptable Events - Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH, Director of CDC**

"Evidence indicates that, with focused efforts, these once-formidable infections can be greatly reduced in number, leading to a new normal for healthcare-associated infections as rare, unacceptable events"

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/656002>

White Paper by IDSA, APIC, SHEA, CSTE and ASTHO on the four pillars of HAI Control

- Adherence to Evidence Based Prevention Practices
- Align Incentives (payment incentives, oversight and accreditation, and public reporting)
- Innovation Research
- Data for Action

[http://www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/GovernmentAdvocacy/RegulatoryIssues/DC/AJIC\\_Elimin.pdf](http://www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/GovernmentAdvocacy/RegulatoryIssues/DC/AJIC_Elimin.pdf)

Current Status of Public Reporting:

- 28 States require public reporting of Hospital Infection Rates.
- 22 States require use of NHSN (National Healthcare Safety Network).
- 20 States have issued reports.

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## **Patients with Medicaid have higher ER Utilization Rates**

In 2008, the majority of visits to primary care delivery sites (84%) occurred in physician offices, 11% in hospital outpatient departments (OPDs), and 5% in community health centers (CHCs).

Patients with Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) or no insurance accounted for a higher percentage of visits to CHCs (56%) and hospital OPDs (40%) than to physician offices (17%).

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db47.htm>

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## **Overutilization and Patient Safety of CT Scanners Comes Under Fire:**

Federal Government Launches Probe into the Approval Process and the Pressuring of Government Regulators by Industry.

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

Hundreds of patients have received overdose of radiation in California hospitals:

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/aug/03/local/la-me-stroke-scans-20100803>

Use of CT and MRI scans triple in 10 years.

<http://www.massdevice.com/news/emergency-room-ct-mri-use-triples-10-years>

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/304/13/1465>

Risk of developing cancer from low-dose radiation exposure may not decrease over time.

<http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=644876>

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## **Making Inpatient Medication Reconciliation Patient Centered, Clinically Relevant and Implementable: A Consensus Statement on Key Principles and Necessary First Step**

From The Joint Commission and Consumers Advancing Patient Safety  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jhm.849/pdf>

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## **Doctor shortage looming? Use nurses, report says**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE69445L20101005>

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## **New Multi-Resistant Bacteria Causing Urinary Tract Infections**

E. coli ST131 could be responsible for more than 3000 deaths each year.

[http://www.newsvine.com/\\_news/2010/10/05/5232660-drug-resistant-bladder-bug-raises-growing-concerns](http://www.newsvine.com/_news/2010/10/05/5232660-drug-resistant-bladder-bug-raises-growing-concerns)

Super Bug Klebsiella pneumoniae Carbapenemase is spreading in Chicago  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/ct-met-superbug-20101022,0,6867309.story>

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## **Drug Companies Starting to Make Public Release Payments to Doctors and Nurses**

Data beginning to appear online:  
<http://projects.propublica.org/docdollars/states/kentucky>

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## **Upcoming Events**

Nov. 6, 2010: HW USA Meeting -- SKYPE Speaker -- Diane Parker (picture to right), a well-known patient advocate from South Carolina. In the picture, Senator Ralph Anderson presents a resolution by the South Carolina General Assembly designating July 4th as Patient Safety Day in Willie Parker's honor. Willie died from a combination of medical errors and a hospital-acquired MRSA infection.



Nov 17, 2010: McCreary County Chamber of Commerce -- Value Purchasing.

Nov 19, 2010: Health Watch USA's Conference on Healthcare Transparency and Patient Advocacy-- Embassy Suites in Lexington, Kentucky. [www.healthconference.org](http://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 (picture to right), Chief Medical Officer from DocsNetwork Ltd, Boston Massachusetts on the Transition of Healthcare reform  
<http://wistechnology.com/dhc/2010/people/>

