Health Watch USA Newsletter

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

OIG Reports on the Incidence of Adverse Events in Hospitals.

As foretold in our Aug. 2010 (Issue 2) newsletter, a new report on Healthcare Facility Adverse Events has been published.   It is sobering.

"We found that about one in seven hospitalized Medicare beneficiaries (13.5 percent) experienced harm as a result of an adverse event during hospital stays."
http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-09-00090.pdf

In Las Vegas Valley, the Nevada Sun identified 3,689 cases in 2008 and 2009 where patients suffered preventable harm while under a hospital's care.
http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/nov/14/why-we-suffer/

In a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine it found that patient harm was common and that the number of incidents did not decrease over time.   2341 adult admissions, in ten randomly selected North Carolina hospitals, were reviewed and for every 100 patient admissions there were 25 documented incidents of "harm."
http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1004404   (NEJM Full Text)

Health Watch USA supports Kentucky Legislation to Mandate Public Reporting of Hospital Acquired Infections.

Thomas R. Frieden, Director of the CDC, has stated, "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.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/656002

Download sample legislation: http://www.healthwatchusa.org/downloads/20101030-KY-HAI-Bill.pdf

View Dr. Kavanagh's presentation in support of public reporting of Healthcare Acquired Infections to the State Joint Health and Welfare Committee.

http://www.healthwatchusa.org/20100120-KY-House-Senate/20101020-KY-HAI-HW-Cmt.htm

New grants from AHRQ to address HAI: The State needs to have an active system of reporting to the Public Health Dept. so accurate data can be gathered and effective intervention protocols implemented.

Special Emphasis Notice (SEN): AHRQ Announces Interest in Career Development (K01, K02, K08) Grants Focused on Healthcare-Associated Infections http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-11-003.html
Special Emphasis Notice (SEN): AHRQ Announces Areas of Interest for Research on Healthcare-Associated Infections   http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-11-002.html

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Health Watch USA Published Policy Report and Review on Surveillance Cultures in the Prevention of MRSA Infections.

http://neverevents.org/downloads/20101122-MRSA%20Policy%20Report.pdf

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Health Watch USA Joins Consumer Groups in Opposition of the CMS Proposal to Replace Survey Visits with Self-Reporting Mechanisms.

Health Watch USA, along with 14 other consumer advocates and advocate organizations, have submitted a letter to CMS in opposition to the initiative to curtail facility survey visits.
http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/201012-Documents/20101110KY-ResponseToCMSProposal-KYHAI.pdf

The above letter is further strengthened by the recent report that State regulators in California have found 87 hospitals that have not reported a serious medical error in three years. By State Law hospitals are required to report any of 28 designated advese medical events.
http://www.californiahealthline.org/articles/2010/11/18/state-health-regulators-urge-some-hospitals-to-recheck-error-reporting.aspx

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Health Watch USA adopts an initiative on Education of Hospital Board Members.

With the advent of healthcare integration, hospital governance and quality issues arise because of the loss of medical staff independence. Hospital Boards thus take an active role in quality oversight. Board members should be trained in patient advocacy and all Boards should have community members without a conflict of interest with the facility.

2010 Conference for Healthcare Transparency and Patient Advocacy:

Well over 160 were in attendance at HW USA's 2010 conference on Healthcare Transparency and Patient Advocacy.   Presentation by CMS Medical Director, Richard Wild, and AHRQ's Patient Safety Policy Advisor, Jim Battles, were among the conference's highlights.   The presenter's PowerPoints and videos can be viewed at: http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2010/index.html