



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Feb 3, 2011

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

Public Reporting of Healthcare Acquired Infections - House Bill 291 Filed by Representative Burch.

In the House, a Bill 291 was filed by Health and Welfare Chairman Burch which requires the public reporting of Healthcare Acquired Infections. This is in follow-up to the bill filed in the Senate by Senator Harper-Angel and Senator Pendleton. A poll by Senator Harper-Angel showed that over 91% of all Kentuckians support the reporting of Healthcare Associated Infections. <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/11RS/HB291.htm>

Op-Ed - Lexington Herald Leader: State Reporting on Hospital Infections Lax, Dangerous

<http://www.kentucky.com/2011/01/21/1605990/state-reporting-on-hospital-infections.html>

Article on SB72 Which Would Require the Reporting of Healthcare Acquired Infections.

Opponents site the bill as being burdensome.

<http://www.kentucky.com/2011/01/23/1607817/kentucky-bill-would-require-reporting.html>

Letter to the Editor in response to Herald Leader article that there is no duplication of efforts in SB72 between State and Federal Requirements.

<http://www.kentucky.com/2011/01/30/1616665/letters-to-the-editor-jan-30.html#more>

Secretary Sebelius comments on the slowness of the healthcare Industry to adopt protocols to reduce Central Line Blood Stream Infections.

"In Michigan, a coalition of hospitals was able to cut central line infections by two thirds, reduce health care costs by \$200 million, and save 1,500 lives in 18 months just by using a simple checklist that reminded doctors to take simple steps like washing their hands. If you heard that without knowing anything about health care, you might assume that hospitals across the country would be rushing to adopt this protocol. But that hasn't happened."

<http://www.hhs.gov/secretary/about/speeches/sp20110113.html>

Use of Surgical Checklist Reduces Malpractice Claims.

<http://psnet.ahrq.gov/resource.aspx?resourceID=20251>

Wall Street Journal Sues to Open Physician Medicare Billing Records to The Public.

This suit comes after an article on the WSJ regarding the high rates of back surgery.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704013604576104093388412886.html>

Higher Spending Hospitals have a Lower Patient Mortality.

A study in the Annals of Internal Medicine found that some hospitals spend up to three times as much on patient care as the lowest spending hospitals but better patient outcomes. For heart failure, patients had a 25% lower patient mortality in the higher spending hospitals.

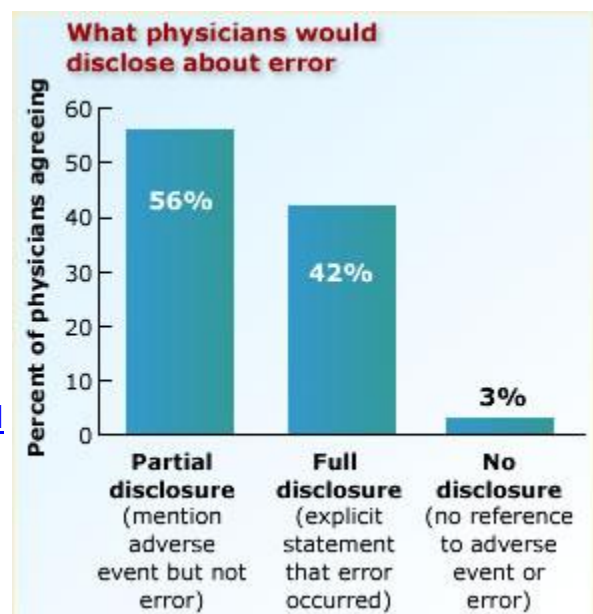
<http://www.californiahealthline.org/articles/2011/2/1/mortality-rates-lower-at-california-hospitals-that-spend-more-study-finds.aspx>

<http://www.annals.org/content/154/3/160.abstract>

Survey of Physician Disclosure of Medical Errors.

3% No Disclosure
42% Full Disclosure
56% Partial Disclosure, Mention the adverse event but not the error.

<http://psnet.ahrq.gov/primer.aspx?primerID=2>



Correction: Medicare & Medicaid Going Broke ??

Medicare and Medicaid; by 2020 Medicaid and Medicare is expected to consume 31 percent of the total **Federal** Budget.

http://finance.yahoo.com/focus-retirement/article/111761/is-2011-the-beginning-of-the-end-for-medicare?mod=fidelity-livingretirement&cat=fidelity_2010_living_in_retirement

Op-Ed Revising Healthcare Reform - Courier Journal Jan 21, 2011

<http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011301210020>

HW USA Meeting May 16th

Speaker Kerry O'Connell activist and driving force behind the Colorado HAI Public Reporting Bill.



HW USA Meeting April 20th

Speaker Helen Haskell - Founder of Mother's Against



Medical Error
Contact Kevin T Kavanagh, MD 606-875-3642

Date for Health Watch USA's 2011 Conference has been set --- Please reserve it on your calendar.

The date for the 2011 Conference on Healthcare Transparency and Patient Advocacy has been set for Nov 11, 2011 (Easy to remember 11/11/11) Place is Embassy Suites, Lexington Kentucky.

To suggest a topic for presentation send an E-Mail to contact-mail@healthwatchusa.org

To present a topic at the conference E-Mail a 300 word abstract and your resume to contact-mail@healthwatchusa.org .