



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org June 1, 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

HW USA Publishes an Article in the Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons

Healthcare Integration: Will the Physician Lose His Voice. The article describes how the hospital's ability to charge facility fees are placing the private practitioner at a competitive disadvantage and driving the rise in hospital-employed physicians. A case is made that the support of healthcare transparency, non-payment of adverse events and a new quality assurance structure in hospitals will help physicians maintain their voice in healthcare.

http://www.facs.org/fellows_info/bulletin/2011/grill0611.pdf

The president of the American College of Surgeons testifies before Congress and stresses the problems with physician payment and endorses the concept of tying payment to healthcare quality and a flat payment per event method of reimbursement for both physicians and hospitals.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uy0x8Ssnf0&feature=player_embedded

Study: Health Care Costs Continue Brisk Growth in 2011

http://www.newsvine.com/_news/2011/05/11/6626213-study-care-costs-continue-brisk-growth-in-2011

AMA Asks for Anti-Trust Exemption regarding Accountable Care Organizations

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/news/news/acos-modifications-needed.page>

New Data Shows Medicare is Still Not Financially Secure

Medicare Trust Funds will be depleted in 2024 and that assumes that the 30% physician pay cut will be enacted in 2012. Afterwards revenue will pay for 90% of costs.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health/medicare-funds-will-be-depleted-in-13-years-report-says/2011/05/13/AFTZ5t2G_story.html?wpisrc=nl_showdown

<http://www.ssa.gov/oact/trsum/index.html>

Reluctance to Speak Up Encourages Medical Errors

More than 50% of nurses surveyed stated they had witnessed shortcuts leading to near

misses or patient harm. Only 17% of these nurses discussed their concerns with colleagues. (The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses and the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses partnered with VitalSmarts for this study.)
http://www.usnews.com/mobile/articles_mobile/study-reluctance-to-speak-up-encourages-medical-errors

Physicians Writing Cardiovascular Guidelines have Conflict of Interest

56% of individuals involved in writing guidelines had a conflict of interest.
<http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/171/6/577>

Vermont Passes Universal Healthcare Reform Bill with a Mandate for Consideration of No-Fault Malpractice Insurance

In the bill it is stated that the State should consider a No-Fault system for malpractice (New Zealand also has a No-Fault System). <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2012/bills/Senate/H-202.pdf>

Important components of the Bill include:

- * Universal Healthcare
 - * Disclosure of Industry gifts
 - * Consideration of a No-Fault system for medical malpractice claims.
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37 Hospitals Recognized by Dept of HHS for their efforts in the Prevention of Hospital Acquired Infections.

<http://www.hhs.gov/ash/news/20110502a.html>

Low Nursing Staffing Levels Were Associated With A Higher Rate of Citations for Deficient Infections Control.

Overall 15% of Nursing Homes were cited
<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2011/05/16/prbf0516.htm>
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21531271/>

Lessons from the Highest and Lowest Ranked States in Healthcare

Kentucky is fourth from the lowest.
http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2011/May/1497_SilowCarroll_lessons_from_highlow_states_ib.pdf

Only 15 Kentucky Hospitals have Signed onto the Dept. of HHS "Partnership for Patients" Program.

<http://partnershippledge.healthcare.gov/>

2011 HW USA 5th Annual Conference

This year's topic is Healthcare Acquired Infections, although other issues involving transparency or patient advocacy can be presented. The date is Nov. 11, 2011 and is being held at the Embassy Suites.

Speakers Include:

- a. John Santa, MD, Director of the Health Ratings Center for Consumer Reports.
- b. Maryn McKenna best selling author of SUPERBUG: The Fatal Menace of MRSA.
- c. Kathy L. Warye. Vice President, Infections Prevention Becton, Dickinson and Company. Past Chief Executive Officer for the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).
- d. Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Past US Surgeon General
- e. Dr. Marvin Feit. Editor of the Journal of Social Work in Public Health.
- f. Patty Skolnik, Patient Advocate and Founder of "Citizens for Patient Safety"
- g. Helen Gulgun Bukulmez, Juris Doctor, Presentation on the Full Disclosure of the Medical Errors by HealthCare Providers and the Legal Consequences of Such Disclosure.
- h. Keith Sinclair, MD, Residents at Oakwood, Somerset KY
- i. Ben Yandull, PhD, Norton Healthcare Systems, Louisville KY
- J. Representative Tom Burch, Chairman of the Kentucky House Health and Welfare Cmt.

We also have exhibits which are FREE for non-profits who provide two registrations. The cost for attendance is \$50 and \$25 for students.

The conference's website can be viewed at www.healthconference.org.

As with previous years' conferences, CME credits are planned to be available for RNs, MDs, JDs, Social Workers and Human Resource Managers.