



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org July 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 Gives Testimony To the Kentucky State Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection Committee on Public Reporting of Health Care Acquired Infections - June 21, 2011

PDF of PowerPoint: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Testimony/20110621-KY-House-Senate/20110619d-KY-Senate-Presentation-HAI.pdf>

Presentation Handout: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Testimony/20110621-KY-House-Senate/20110621-Handout-HAI-VMAPP-Final-4.pdf>

Video - Computers: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Testimony/20110621-KY-House-Senate/20110621-kavanagh.htm>

Video - I-Pad & I-Phone: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Testimony/20110621-KY-House-Senate/20110621-kavanagh2.htm>

HW USA featured in Courier Journal on Never Events -- June 12, 2011

"...Doug Leonard, president of the Indiana Hospital Association, said the industry needs to "embrace transparency. Sometimes we don't like the results of that, but I think transparency is good for us and good for the public." Even if the data are off by 50 percent or more, Leonard said, "it really doesn't matter, because one injury or one error is wrong," and hospitals should focus on preventing errors rather than disputing the numbers."

Free Viewing (Until 7/11/2011): <http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011306130005>

Archive:

http://pgasb.pgarchiver.com/courier_journal/access/2372915321.html?FMT=ABS&date=Jun+13%2C+2011

Facilities need to adopt better tools to monitor and report infections

By Arjun Srinivasan, Associate Director for Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Programs, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion

Epidemiologists often say, "You can't prevent what you can't measure." When it comes to

health care-associated infections, we know this holds true. When hospitals measure infections and act on that information, they can make dramatic progress in preventing infections. As the recent reporting in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution pointed out, the progress that can be made has surprised nearly everyone.

<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/viewpoints-how-can-caregivers-989825.html>

Illinois Appellate Court Ruled that Facility MRSA Rates Can Be Obtained During Legal Discovery

“MRSA has become a national crisis, and hospitals have been slow and unequal in their response,” Blandin stated. “They can no longer hide behind the Medical Studies Act. The case is significant to Romanucci & Blandin’s efforts to ensure that hospitals are taking action to prevent the deadly spread of MRSA throughout Chicago area hospitals.”

http://chicago.dbusinessnews.com/shownews.php?articletitle=Illinois%20Appellate%20Court%20Ruling%20Means%20Hospitals%20Must%20Release%20Data%20about%20Incidents%20of%20MRSA%20Infections&newsid=236874&type_news=latest&s=sbcn

5% of All Patients Treated in a Boston Hospital Emergency Room are MRSA Culture Positive

<http://www.annemergmed.com/article/S0196-0644%2810%2901821-4/abstract>

From Oct. 2008 through Sept. 2009 CMS Stated it Saved 18.8 Million Dollars Nationwide with Their Non-Payment of Healthcare Acquired Conditions Policy

This equates to an average of less than \$4000 per hospital.

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/201107-Documents/FY2011%20Final%20IPPS%20rule%20HACs.pdf>

Patient Reporting of Adverse Events is 70% Reliable.

"This study of more than 2000 patients recently discharged from Massachusetts hospitals found that patients could identify unique adverse effects of hospitalization that may not have been identified by other methods. Importantly, physician reviewers agreed that the patient-reported events constituted a true clinical adverse event in more than 70% of cases."

<http://psnet.ahrq.gov/resource.aspx?resourceID=22236&sourceID=1&emailID=20285>

Medicare Not Financially Sound

"Medicare’s HI Trust Fund is expected to pay out more in hospital benefits and other expenditures than it receives in income in all future years. The projected date of HI Trust Fund exhaustion is 2024, five years earlier than estimated in last year’s report, at which time

dedicated revenues would be sufficient to pay 90 percent of HI costs. The share of HI expenditures that can be financed with HI dedicated revenues is projected to decline slowly to 75 percent in 2045, and then to rise slowly, reaching 88 percent in 2085."

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

The Commonwealth Fund Connection: Medicaid Managed Care Plans Owned by For-Profits Have Higher Costs, Lower Quality

<https://mail.google.com/mail/?shva=1#search/advocacyaction%40bellsouth.net/13093d2ec399168d>

Medicare Claims Data Shows CT Scan Over Usage

Double scanning of patients is a concern. A single CT scan equates about 350 Chest X-Rays.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/18/health/18radiation.html>

Modern Healthcare Reports, Small Practices are Looking For Partners.

Stress of Health Care Information Technology and The Coming of Accountable Care Organizations are driving healthcare integration.

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20110626/NEWS/110629991?AllowView=VW8xUmo5Q21TcWJOb1gzb0tNN3RLZ0h0MWg5SVgra3NZRzROR3l0WWRMZmJVdjhIRWxiNUtpQzMyNWFyNFg0WUpiV2c=#>

HW USA Article in the Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons on Healthcare Integration

http://www.facs.org/fellows_info/bulletin/2011/kavanagh0611.pdf

Kentucky is Worse than Average on AHRQ Measures and is Getting Worse

<http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov/snaps10/map.jsp?menuId=2&state=>

AHA Reported to State CMS Lacks Authority to Enforce ACO Anti-Trust Actions

http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20110531/NEWS/305319961?utm_source=rss01&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=rss01

Disclosure of Medical Errors Lowers Suits

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2011/05/30/prsd0601.htm>

Findings Suggest Reporting of Medical Studies May be Spun Up to 50% of the Time to Give Meaning Inconsistent With The Results

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20501928>

Survey Suggests Upto One in Three Employers will Drop Healthcare After Healthcare Reform Kicks In

http://www.mckinseyquarterly.com/How_US_health_care_reform_will_affect_employee_benefits_2813

Middle Income Retirees May Qualify for Medicaid

As many as 3 million more people may get Medicaid in 2014 since the Healthcare Reform Law excludes Social Security Benefits from being counted as income in determining eligibility.

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2079224,00.html>

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 conference will be held on Nov. 11, 2011 and is being held at the Embassy Suites.

Download Brochure:

http://www.healthconference.org/2011confreence_downloads/2011-Brochure.pdf



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, Bluegrass Oakwood Community Cetner, Somerset KY
- l. 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.

To register go to: <http://www.healthconference.org/payment-fax-check.htm>

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.