



# Health Watch USA Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) July 15, 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

## Op-Ed Published in the Lexington Herald Leader on Healthcare Acquired Infections.

The public and patients have the right to know Kentucky hospitals' infection rates. Op-ed by Dr Daniel Saman and Dr Kevin Kavanagh.

<http://www.kentucky.com/2011/07/11/1807535/public-patients-have-right-to.html>

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## Hospitals Run by Doctors Have 25% Better Quality

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/07/07/should-hospitals-be-run-by-doctors/?partner=rss&emc=rss>

[http://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/fulltext/2009/10000/perspective\\_educating\\_physicians\\_to\\_lead.16.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/fulltext/2009/10000/perspective_educating_physicians_to_lead.16.aspx)

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## Funding for Antibiotic Resistance Research is Low. (Under \$600 for each MRSA and C. Diff Death compared to \$69,000 for each HIV Death).

Excellent article by Maryn McKenna one of HW USA's Keynote Speakers at our 2011 Conference ( [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org) )

<http://www.pbfluids.com/2011/07/must-read-article-on-funding-for.html>

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## Angioplasties Reported to be Overused.

Of the 600,000 angioplasties done each year, 70% are performed for acute symptoms of a heart attack and are appropriate.

Of the remainder which are performed on patients with stable, mild or no symptoms the following patient benefits were found:

11.6% are Inappropriate  
38.0% Benefit Uncertain  
50.4% Procedure Appropriate

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21730241>

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304760604576428323005864648.html?mod=WSJ\\_hp\\_LEFTTopStories](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304760604576428323005864648.html?mod=WSJ_hp_LEFTTopStories)

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## **Wrong Site Surgery Takes Place 40 Times a Week in the USA - Joint Commission**

<http://www.healthleadersmedia.com/content/LED-268180/Joint-Commission-Unveils-Wrong-Site-Surgery-Prevention-Tool.html>

<http://www.centerfortransforminghealthcare.org/>

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## **CDC Published Outpatient Infection Prevention Guidelines**

<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/settings/outpatient/outpatient-care-guidelines.html>

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## **Increased Cardiovascular Risk in Patients Taking Chantix to Stop Smoking**

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/745762?ssdmh=dm1.700724&src=nldne>

France Pulls Subsidy for Chantix

<http://www.forexyard.com/en/news/France-pulls-subsidy-for-Pfizer-stop-smoking-drug-2011-05-31T105429Z>

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## **Full Disclosure Lowers Malpractice Costs.**

Regarding Toro and the University of Michigan healthcare systems: "...the new policy (full disclosure) was adopted, the hospital system's malpractice claims declined by 36 percent, and the average cost of resolving a case dropped 44 percent, from \$410,000 to \$228,000. Some of this improvement is almost certainly due to the fact that the Michigan system now provides better care — but that's an even better reason for trying a new approach."

[http://www.rollcall.com/issues/57\\_3/time\\_change\\_tack\\_malpractice\\_claims-207072-1.html](http://www.rollcall.com/issues/57_3/time_change_tack_malpractice_claims-207072-1.html)

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## How well is Medicare Policy on the Non-Payment of Hospital Acquired Conditions Working? Commonwealth Fund Article Suggests Not Very Well.

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/In-the-Literature/2011/Jun/Medicare-Payment-Policy-for-Hospital-Acquired-Conditions.aspx>

McHugh M, Van Dyke K, Osei-Anto A, Haque A. Medicare's Payment Policy for Hospital-Acquired Conditions : Perspectives of Administrators From Safety Net Hospitals. Med Care Res Rev. 2011 May 19. [Epub ahead of print] <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21602197>

HW USA's comment on the article regarding the non-capturing of some diagnostic codes by CMS and the documentation that only 18.8 million dollars has been recouped by Medicare's non-payment for HAC policy between Oct. 2008 and Sept. 2009.

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/In-the-Literature/2011/Jun/Medicare-Payment-Policy-for-Hospital-Acquired-Conditions.aspx?view=comments>

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## 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](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. Frances A. Griffin, Senior Manager of Clinical Programs, BD Medical. Faculty at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI).
- 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 Center, Somerset KY
- i. Ben Yandell, 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](http://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.