



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Aug 4, 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

Kentucky HAI Legislative Testimony

Testimony Before the Kentucky State Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education on Healthcare Acquired Infections, Public Reporting and The Impact on the Community.

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Testimony/20110801-KY-House-Senate/20110801-kavanagh.htm>
CDC & ASTHO Elimination of Healthcare Associated Infections - State Policy Report
http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/201108-Documents/toolkit-HAI-POLICY-FINAL_03-2011.pdf

Healthcare-Associated Infections Reporting Laws
as of January 2011



Click on Map to Enlarge

Comment on MRSA Surveillance Cultures Published in the Journal of The American College of Surgeons

Kavanagh K, Abusalem S. Mounting evidence supports universal surveillance for MRSA in preoperative patients. J Am Coll Surg. 2011 Aug;213(2):335-6. PMID: 21787990. Commentary on Swiss/Geneva MRSA Study Published in JAMA (Harbarth, Fankhauser, Schrenzel, et.al, 2008).

To view the article you can order from the library or send a reprint request to:

Dr. Kevin T Kavanagh, MD
Health Watch USA
3396 Woodhaven Dr
Somerset KY, 42503

Reprints have been ordered and copies will be sent out once they are received.

Healthcare Reform Costing More and May Be Covering Less People

An article on how Healthcare Reform is not saving as much is any money and how fewer people are signing up for some plans designed to increase converge. "The Congressional Budget Office estimates that, by the end of the decade, 3 million fewer people will get health insurance from their employer." Only 20,000 people have signed up for the pre-existing conditions plans and less people are expected to take COBRA.

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2011/July/28/health-care-spending-to-double.aspx>

Healthcare will cost 4.6 Trillion by 2020.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2011/07/28/us-health-tab-projected-to-hit-46-trillion-in-2020/?test=latestnews>

"Health care spending in the U.S. towers over the other countries. The U.S. has fewer hospital beds and physicians, and sees fewer hospital and physician visits, than in most other countries. Prescription drug utilization, prices, and spending all appear to be highest in the U.S." -- David Squires the Commonwealth Fund.
http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2011/Jul/1532_Squires_US_hlt_sys_comparison_12_nations_intl_brief_v2.pdf

PowerPoint PDF summarizing OECD Multi-National Health Data.
http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2011/Jul/PDF_1533_Anderson_multinational_comparisons_2010_OECD_pfd.pdf

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The Patient Toll of Hospital Acquired Infections

Cost of treating a knee infection after a Total Knee can be \$50,000. An example that the patient must also be consider when judging cost efficiency.
<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20110724/BIZ01/307240004/Doctor-practices-Best-Practices>

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Combating Preventable Rehospitalizations

An interesting comment from IHI in an article regarding the "State Action on Avoidable Rehospitalizations initiative, STAAR" initiative,

"With a strong reliance on technology, stakeholders are working to accomplish STAAR's mission without adding extra cost for human resources," says Patricia Rutherford, IHI Vice President and Co-Principal Investigator for the STAAR initiative. "It is not sustainable to add extra cost."

Read more: <http://www.foxbusiness.com/personal-finance/2011/07/21/combating-preventable-rehospitalizations-no-easy-task/#ixzz1TPLfos32>

It appears staffing and cost considerations may also play a part in this initiative.

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Institute of Medicine Report on Medical Device Rules is Under Attack

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/28/health/28institute.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all

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Physician Shortage -- Supply projected to fall short by 20% by 2025.

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2011/07/25/prsc0727.htm>
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21459629/>

Medicare Proposes Cutting Physician Pay by 29.5% in 2012

If this happens, it would be expected to further drive integration with increased physician employment by hospitals.

http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/amawire/2011-july-20/2011-july-20-general_news1.shtml?P=P&C=M&G=F&M=F&I=&W=&Y=&S=F

Medicare Proposes a 50% Cut in some Imaging Fees

Health Watch USA has run numerous reports in its newsletter regarding the high utilization of MRI and CT Scans. Currently, two proposals have been seen from Medicare. The first considered implementing a precertification program. The second, proposed cuts in fees (see link below).

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2011/07/18/gvl10718.htm>

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. 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.

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