



# Health Watch USA Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Sept. 5, 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

## Health Watch USA and Over 50 Other Consumer Organizations and Advocates call for Repeal of the Federal Law Prohibiting the Release of Hospital Accreditation Surveys.

(Note MS Explorer users may need to right click on the links and open in a new window!!)

[http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20110902-Senator Tom Harkin-Final.pdf](http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20110902-Senator_Tom_Harkin-Final.pdf)

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## Health Watch USA's Opinion Editorial Calls for A Close Look at UK Infection Rates and Staffing.

<http://www.kentucky.com/2011/09/04/1869038/investigate-staffing-infection.html>

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## Poor Reporting in Patient Safety Organizations

"We found that in only 40% of hospitals did their event reporting system receive any reports on health care-associated infections, which meant that the patient safety team running the event reporting system wasn't talking to the infection control team. This is a perfect example of a fragmentation of efforts at the hospital level. We have tried to address that problem in the PSO program through the common definitions and reporting formats."

Aug. 4th 2011 -- William B. Munier, MD, MBA, Director of AHRQ's Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, on implementation of the Patient Safety Organization (PSO) program. [View Source](#)

This relates to a March 2010 OIG report "Adverse Events in Hospitals: Methods for Identifying Events"

"The implications of hospitals' failure to identify and capture event information can be significant. First, although we did not assess hospital compliance with Federal requirements to "track medical errors and adverse patient events," it raises concerns that only four of the seven most serious events had no associated hospital incident reports. Further, the lack of incident reports for 93 percent of events suggests that hospital incident-reporting systems may be an unreliable source of information for PSOs, States operating adverse event reporting systems, and other entities. These

entities often seek to learn from the combined experiences of many hospitals to generate lessons to improve patient safety. Unless events are reported within the hospital first, the event information is unlikely to be available to outside entities for learning."

<http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-08-00221.pdf>

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/201108-Documents/20100300-Adverse-Events-Hospitals-oei-06-08-00221.pdf>

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## MRSA Skin Infections on the Rise.

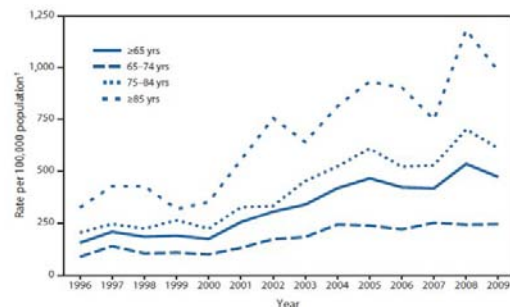
"In 2009, the rate of skin infections among children that required hospitalization climbed to 9.4 cases per 10,000 children, up from about 4.5 cases per 10,000 in the year 2000."

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/08/11/more-children-hospitalized-with-skin-infections/>

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## Most Clostridium Difficile Infections are Among Hospitalized Patients Aged ≥65 Years. (Click on Picture to Enlarge)

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6034a7.htm?s\\_cid=mm6034a7\\_e&source=govdelivery](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6034a7.htm?s_cid=mm6034a7_e&source=govdelivery)



## 70% of Central Line Infections Occur Within the Maintenance Phase

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/pennsylvania-patient-safety-authority-provides-analysis-and-data-driven-prevention-strategies-to-reduce-central-line-associated-bloodstream-infections-clabsi-128872638.html>

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## Hospital Employment of Physicians May Be Increasing Costs (Vertical Integration).

The following is a quote from the Health System Change Policy Brief 136 Aug. 2011:

"In addition, hospitals routinely charge facility fees for office visits and procedures performed in formerly independent physicians' offices, where the physicians have

converted to hospital employment. The terms "hospital-based facility" or "provider-based facility" refer to a facility or office that is part of a hospital but may not be located on the hospital campus. The provider-based status produces substantially higher Medicare payments than when physicians remain in independent practice, because there are now separate payments for professional services and for hospital outpatient facility fees. In short, it is possible for a physician practice to be acquired by a hospital, not change locations or even practice operations, yet the hospital now receives significantly higher Medicare payments if it meets the criteria for achieving provider-based status."

<http://www.hschange.org/CONTENT/1230/#note1>

The Commonwealth Fund's Analysis of this issue can be found below:

"Hospitals are paying cardiologists over \$1 million a year," an Indianapolis physician told researchers. "Hospital costs are going up dramatically in our market. . . You are seeing a number of compensation offers that are multiples of what physicians had made historically."

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Newsletters/Washington-Health-Policy-in-Review/2011/Aug/August-22-2011/Yet-Another-Source-of-Rising-Health-Costs.aspx>

Medscape Coverage of this Same Policy Issue:

<http://mp.medscape.com/cgi-bin1/DM/t/hDR2M0VY1rs0Euh0F8mq0GB&uac=123591HV>

This Policy Issue was previously covered by Health Watch USA in the June issue of the Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons.

[http://www.facs.org/fellows\\_info/bulletin/2011/kavanagh0611.pdf](http://www.facs.org/fellows_info/bulletin/2011/kavanagh0611.pdf)

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## **Hospital Monopolies: The Biggest Driver of Health Costs That Nobody Talks About (Horizontal Integration)**

Forbes Quote -- tough talk from Forbes "For all the crap that insurers get for raising premiums, attacking insurers is the health-economics equivalent of shooting the messenger."

At issue is Attorney General Martha Cockley's March 2010 study regarding the effects of increasing Hospital Market Share.

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/201101-Documents/20100316-Mass-Hosp-Charges.pdf>

HW USA covered this topic in an Op-Ed on March of 2011  
[http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/courier\\_journal/access/2244398861.html](http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/courier_journal/access/2244398861.html) (only abstract now available.)

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## **US Infant Mortality Rate Higher Than 40 Other Countries**

A new WHO report finds that "the newborn death rate in the United States is higher than in 40 other countries including Malaysia, Cuba and Poland"

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/us-newborn-mortality-rate-higher-40-countries/story?id=14420009>

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1001080>

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## **Nov. 11, 2011 HW USA's 5th Annual Conference on Healthcare Transparency and Patient Advocacy.**

The conference will be held on Nov. 11th, 2011 at the Embassy Suites. It is now time to Register. This year's conference has a number of exciting speakers.



Download Presentation Objectives:

[http://www.healthconference.org/2011conference\\_downloads/ContinuingEducationIDocument.pdf](http://www.healthconference.org/2011conference_downloads/ContinuingEducationIDocument.pdf)

Download Conference 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 bestselling author of SUPERBUG: The Fatal Menace of MRSA.
- c. Frances A. Griffin, Senior Manager of Clinical Programs, BD Medical and Faculty at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI).
- d. Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Past US Surgeon General on Transformational Leadership.
- 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 Full Disclosure of Medical Errors by Healthcare Providers and the Legal Consequences of Such

Disclosure.

h. Keith Sinclair, MD, Bluegrass Oakwood Community Center, Somerset, KY, presenting how Oakwood in Somerset Kentucky used transparency to virtually eliminate pressure ulcers.

I. Ben Yandell, PhD, Norton Healthcare Systems, Louisville, KY, will present on Healthcare Transparency.

J. Representative Tom Burch, Chairman of the Kentucky House Health and Welfare Cmt.

COST: \$50 per person including a box lunch and CME Credits.

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 available for RNs, MDs, PT, and Human Resource Managers (PHR, SPHR and GPHR). Application has been made for Occupational therapists, social workers and attorneys (CLEs).

Please note speakers may change without notice.

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