



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Oct. 15th, 2011

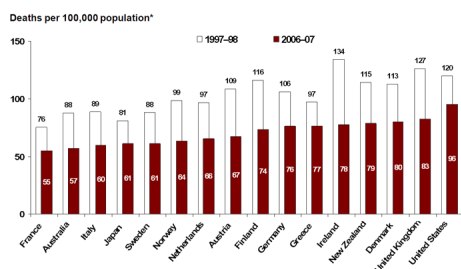
Member of the National Quality Forum and a designated "Community Leader" for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

US Ranks last Among High Income Nations on Preventable Healthcare Deaths -- Commonwealth Fund

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/In-the-Literature/2011/Sep/Variations-in-Amenable-Mortality.aspx>

Click on Picture to Enlarge

U.S. Lags Other Countries: Mortality Amenable to Health Care



* Countries' age-standardized death rates before age 75, including ischemic heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and bacterial infections. Analysis of World Health Organization mortality files and CDC mortality data for U.S. Source: Adapted from E. Nofre and M. McKee. "Variations in Amenable Mortality—Trends in 16 High-Income Nations." Health Policy, published online Sept. 12, 2011.



Metal-on-Metal Hip Prostheses are Breaking Down.

The metal on metal design is in some patients causing metal fragments to build in the surrounding tissues which in turn is causing significant tissue destruction.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/01/health/01hip.html?pagewanted=1>

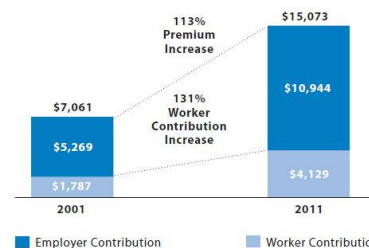
Health Insurance Cost to Increase 8 to 9 Percent

Kaiser Foundation Report (See right figure depicting the rise in insurance premiums during the last decade.) : <http://ehbs.kff.org/pdf/8226.pdf>

Click on Picture to Enlarge

EXHIBIT A

Average Annual Health Insurance Premiums and Worker Contributions for Family Coverage, 2001–2011



Source: Kaiser/HRET Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Benefits, 2001–2011.

Other articles covering this finding:

wsj:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204831304576596673834432368.html>

nyt: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/28/business/health-insurance-costs-rise-sharply-this-year-study-shows.html>

Surgery Utilization Varies Widely in California

Elective Angioplasty utilization can vary as much as 538% between Hospital Service Areas in California (see picture to the right).

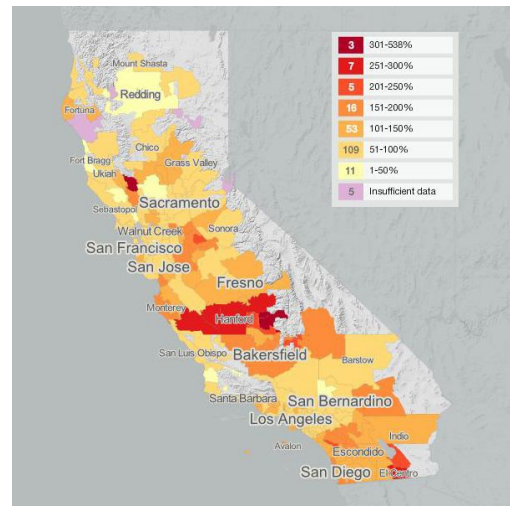
[Click on Picture to Enlarge](#)

Using the link below view a map on the Utilization of angioplasties and other procedures.

<http://www.chcf.org/publications/2011/09/medical-variation-rates-california#region=hsa&procedure=epci&c=6/37.41928/-123.39017>

Pittsburgh Tribune article on the variation of costs in Pennsylvania.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s_758618.html



CMS Estimates that Avoidable Readmission Costs CMS Greater than \$17 Billion Each Year

http://www.dartmouthatlas.org/downloads/reports/Post_discharge_events_092811.pdf

England May Have Healthcare Problems Too

75% of nurses in England fear for their patients because of inadequate staffing levels.

<http://www.nursingtimes.net/nursing-practice/clinical-specialisms/management/three-quarters-of-nurses-fear-for-their-patients-safety/5035111.article>

State of Maine Releases Hospital Admission Data on MRSA Admission Surveillance of High-Risk Groups.

This study found that in 14 out of 32 hospitals in the state of Maine, greater than 10% of the patients admitted to the ICU were MRSA culture positive. In dialysis units where at least 10 or more MRSA cultures were taken, 8 units had a rate of positive cultures of greater than 25%. Patients who had stayed at least one night in a nursing home had the highest rate of positive MRSA cultures on admission. 32 out of 36 hospitals reported a rate of over 10%, 20 of these hospitals reported a rate of 20% or greater, 7 hospitals reported a rate of over 30% and one hospital had a rate of over 40%.

http://mainequalityforum.gov/2011_Final_HAI.pdf

Articles on the MRSA Epidemic:

In the year following detection of MRSA colonization, 33% of high-risk tertiary care patients developed an infection. "In high-risk tertiary care patients, newly-detected MRSA carriage confers large risks of infection and substantial attributable mortality in the year following acquisition." -- Sept. 2011

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21949707>

"Routine surveillance for MRSA in ICUs allowed earlier initiation of contact isolation precautions and was associated with large and statistically significant reductions in the incidence of MRSA bacteremia in the ICUs and hospital wide. In contrast, no similar decrease was attributable to the other infection control interventions." -- Oct. 2006

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16983607>

Patients hospitalized in a room whose prior occupant was MRSA positive had a 3.9% chance of catching MRSA compared to a 2.9% chance if the room was negative. For Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE) these values were 4.5% and 2.8%. -- Oct 2006

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17030826>

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/ContinuingEducationDocument.pdf>

Download Conference Brochure:



http://www.healthconference.org/2011conference_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. Rosemary Gibson award winning author of "The Treatment Trap".
- 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.

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