



Health Watch USA Newsletter

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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 Testimony Before the KY Joint Interim Health & Welfare Cmt - Dec. 2011

Dr. Kavanagh testified on Dec. 19th before the Kentucky Interim Joint House and Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding healthcare acquired infections and public reporting.

To view the testimony (and handouts) go to:

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Testimony/20111219-KY-House-Senate/20111219-kavanagh.htm>

To view the supplemental information (the part not presented) go to:

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Testimony/20111219-KY-House-Senate/20111219-Supplement.htm>

HW USA in the News: Hospitalists are well-positioned to lead measured, team approaches to snuff out common hospital-acquired infections.

HW USA participated in the article and was able to stress the importance of checklists. Hand hygiene is important in the prevention of HAIs. We feel there needs to be standards of care in addressing this epidemic and an expanded role for Active Detection and Isolation.

http://www.the-hospitalist.org/details/article/1429687/A_Winnable_Battle.html

Audio Comment: Online Exclusive:

http://www.the-hospitalist.org/details/article/1429565/ONLINE_EXCLUSIVE_The_Culture_of_Medicine_Must_Change_Watchdog_Group_Says.html

NEW OIG Report Finds that Hospital Incident Reporting Systems are Not Capturing Events.

"Yet even after hospitals investigate preventable injuries and infections that have been reported, they rarely change their practices to prevent repetition of the "adverse events," "

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/06/health/study-of-medicare-patients-finds-most->

hospital-errors-unreported.html?_r=1

"Hospital incident reporting systems captured only an estimated 14 percent of the patient harm events experienced by Medicare beneficiaries. Hospitals investigated those reported events that they considered most likely to lead to quality and safety improvements and made few policy or practice changes as a result of reported events" (OEI-06-09-00091) <http://go.usa.gov/RrX>

New Report on Use of Surveillance Cultures

Dr William Jarvis on MRSA Colonization and Risk of Infection:

This report discusses a study by Dr. Gupta which found that the use of Vancomycin prophylaxis prior to surgery in the absence of MRSA colonization was associated with an increase risk in infections. 6.6% of patients were found to be MRSA carriers. And that MRSA carriage was associated with an increase risk of infection. States that the research data provides strong support for active MRSA Surveillance of preoperative patients. <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/755905>

Dr William Jarvis on MRSA Surveillance and the Results of the National VA Study:
<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/744830>

No Improvement in Hospital Safety Indicators Over a 10-Year Period (1998 to 2007).

"This study, which used the AHRQ Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs) to analyze safety events in 69 million hospitalizations over a 10-year period, also finds no clear evidence of improved safety."
<http://psnet.ahrq.gov/resource.aspx?resourceID=23730>

Small Doctor Practices are Going Broke

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/small-business-doctors-going-broke-101200127.html>

Challenges of Hospitals

Approximately 75 percent of physicians are already in financial relationships with hospitals, according to a recent Pricewaterhouse Coopers survey, and more than half indicated the desire to have a financial relationship.
<http://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-management-administration/12-challenges-and-opportunities-for-hospitals-in-2012.html?mid=5539>

Avastin Effectiveness in Ovarian Cancer is Questioned

<https://mail.google.com/mail/?shva=1#inbox/13489ea6e85354c7>

PSA Testing and Prostate Cancer Screening -- Another Case of Overutilization ??

US Preventive Services Task Force has determined that benefits of prostate-specific antigen (PSA)-based screening for prostate cancer were outweighed by harms. -- Dec. 28, 2012 JAMA

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/306/24/2721.extract>

One Fourth of ICU Clinicians in Israel and Europe report Inappropriate Care -- Most often Overutilization -- Dec 28, 2012 JAMA

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/756089?sssdmh=dm1.746001&src=nlne>

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/306/24/2694.abstract>

California Releases New Report on Hospital Infection Rates

“California is disclosing infection rates on more surgical procedures than any other state in the country,” said Lisa McGiffert from Consumer Union. “The state is providing the public with data on infection rates throughout hospitals wards, not just intensive care units like most other states.”

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/hai/Pages/default.aspx>

California Medical Association's Comment on CMS's Conditions of Participation for Hospitals with Medicare and Medicaid.

Of concern is a provision which would allow a single governing body for multiple hospitals. The CMA opposes this revision stating that local governing bodies are necessary for optimal input and oversight of local staffing and governance issues.

<http://www.cmanet.org/files/assets/news/2011/12/cma-hospital-cops-comments-12-23-11.pdf?mid=5649632>

Using Medicare Claims Data to Rate Doctors Gets Approval

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=%2Fc%2Fa%2F2011%2F12%2F05%2FMNOT1M8IG3.DTL>

MRSA Colonization Reported in Children to be 2.9%

Prevalence of MRSA colonization in otitis prone children was observed to be 3.9%, which was similar to the general community.

<http://archotol.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/137/12/1217>