



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Feb. 10th, 2012

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

Hospital Infections are Under-reported -- Op-Ed Courier Journal

"The rates of infections acquired at health care facilities should be made public, and patients who acquire these infections should not be charged for their rescue."

<http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012302010056>

Other States also have problems with under-reporting.

Colorado: http://www.cpr.org/#load_article%7CHospitals_Infection_Numbers_Flawed

California: <http://californiawatch.org/node/14502/>

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Health Watch USA Proposes Model Legislation:

Health Watch USA proposed model legislation for the public reporting of healthcare acquired infections.

The model legislation requires reporting using the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), a non-duplicative standardized reporting system operated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This system will expand and dovetail into the framework formed by the reporting of the several infections which are required by the Federal Government. In addition, the reporting is expanded to all types of healthcare facilities. (Above right shows the current and future planned Federal Reporting Requirements - Click on picture to enlarge.)

Healthcare Facility HAI Reporting to CMS via NHSN – Current and Proposed Requirements DRAFT (8/5/2011)		
HAI Event	Facility Type	Reporting Start Date
CLABSI	Acute Care Hospitals Adult, Pediatric, and Neonatal ICUs	January 2011
CAUTI	Acute Care Hospitals Adult and Pediatric ICUs	January 2012
SSI	Acute Care Hospitals Colon and abdominal hysterectomy	January 2012
I.V. antimicrobial start (proposed)	Dialysis Facilities	January 2012
Positive blood culture (proposed)	Dialysis Facilities	January 2012
Signs of vascular access infection (proposed)	Dialysis Facilities	January 2012
CLABSI	Long Term Care Hospitals *	October 2012
CAUTI	Long Term Care Hospitals *	October 2012
CAUTI	Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities	October 2012
MRSA Bacteremia	Acute Care Hospitals	January 2013
C. difficile LabID Event	Acute Care Hospitals	January 2013
HCW Influenza Vaccination	Acute Care Hospitals	January 2013
HCW Influenza Vaccination	OP Surgery, ASCs	October 2013
SSI (proposed)	Outpatient Surgery/ASCs	January 2014

* Long Term Care Hospitals are called Long Term Acute Care Hospitals in NHSN

The Boston Globe reports that Vaginal Hysterectomy infection rates are high. However, according to the above chart only Abdominal Hysterectomy rates are reported.

<http://www.boston.com/Boston/whitecoatnotes/2012/02/massachusetts-releases-report-cards-hospital-acquired-infections/nhyDkudOnnLhOBm1PIsDTL/index.html>

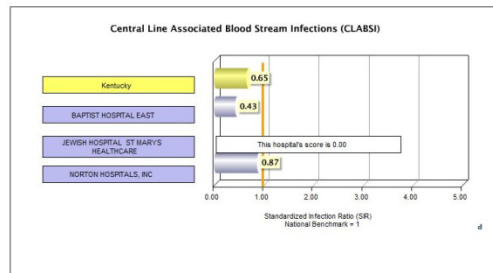
In addition, the reporting of C-Section infections will also underscore the risks of this

operation. It may also help to better educate patients on the risk/benefits when considering to have this procedure. Data indicates that C-Sections in the US may be performed too often. http://www.usatoday.com/yourlife/parenting-family/babies/2010-08-31-csection31_ST_N.htm

Download Model Legislation for Reporting of Hospital Acquired Infections in Kentucky: http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/2012-Documents/2012N-KY-HAI-relating_to_health.pdf

First Report on Infection Released by Federal Government:

The newly posted data only reports central line infections in the ICUs. Although comparisons are made to the national average, it should be remembered that the average infection rate in US facilities is too high and approximately one-in-twenty admitted patients develops an infection. Central line infections should be in the low-single digits. Two facilities in Kentucky that achieved a rate of zero are Central Baptist in Lexington and Jewish Hospital / St. Mary's Healthcare in Louisville.



[\(Click on Picture to Enlarge\)](#)

To generate reports, go to: <http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov/hospital-search.aspx>

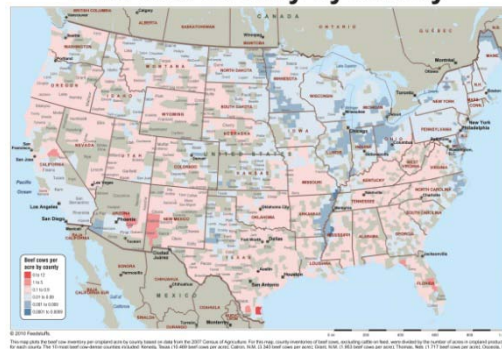
Highly Resistant Bacteria Found in 37 States:

In the United States, at least 37 States have cultured bacteria with an enzyme (Klebsiella pneumoniae carbapenemase, or KPC) making it resistant to most antibiotics. In India a new bacteria (NDM-1) is resistant to 15 types of antibiotics. <http://news.yahoo.com/antibiotic-resistant-bacteria-found-37-u-states-204438989.html>

If a Cow Map Exists, Why Not One For MRSA or C. Difficile ?

Healthcare associated infections and multi-resistant organisms are not reportable in many states. There is data on the beef cow density in each county but there is little data for MRSA, or other Healthcare Acquired Infections. [\(Click on Picture to Enlarge\)](#)

Beef cow density by county



Map reproduced with permission from Feedstuffs. <http://www.feedstuffs.com>

Can Insurers Survive in Accountable Care Organizations?

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/01/30/the-end-of-health-insurance-companies/?partner=rss&emc=rss>

How Doctors Do Harm - Over Utilization of Cancer Treatment

Dr. Otis Webb Brawley, the Chief Medical Officer of the American Cancer Society stated that no study has ever been done to prove high-dose chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant for breast cancer is beneficial to the patient.

www.cnn.com/2012/01/30/health/how-we-do-harm-brawley/index.htm

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