



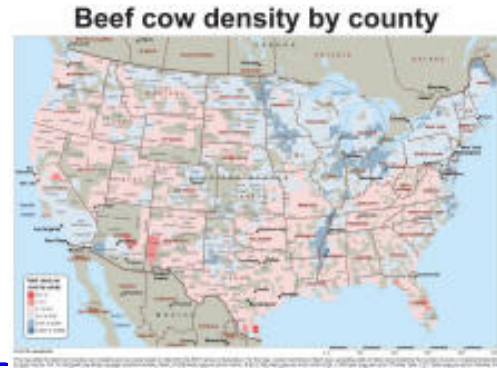
Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org March 15th, 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

A tale of two cows: Why we have a cow map and not a healthcare acquired infection map

An Op-Ed by Dr Daniel Saman and Dr Kevin Kavanagh posted on the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics and Policy website blog. The article is a parody comparing the availability of data between agriculture and healthcare along with the inertia in addressing the HAI epidemic. ([Link to Op-Ed Below, Click on Graphic to Enlarge](#))



http://cddep.org/blog/posts/tale_two_cows_why_we_have_cow_map_and_not_healthcare_acquired_infection_map

The rise of C. Difficile mortality in the US between 2000 and 2006 - A CDDEP Study:

http://www.cddep.org/tools/more_prevalent_deadly_c_difficile_infections_and_oral_vancomycin_prescribing_correlation

High cost of US Health Care Compared to Other Countries.

Read full Washington Post article: "...why Americans pay such high prices — and why we haven't done anything about it" ?

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/high-health-care-costs-its-all-in-the-pricing/2012/02/28/gIQAAtbhimR_story.html

Click on graphic to enlarge or go to the link below:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/business/high-cost-of-medical-procedures-in-the-us/>



In 2010, thirty million people were turned over to collections for unpaid medical bills, up from 22 million in 2005. <http://enews.earthlink.net/article/us?guid=20120304/fda93ef8-c48e-49af-a011-8c294aadbb0d>

Medical Billing Fraud Being Tracked With Medicare

CMS encourages seniors to watch out for Medical Billing Fraud with easy to read billing Statements which Medicare will mail to them.

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2012/March/07/medicare-fraud-seniors-bills.aspx>

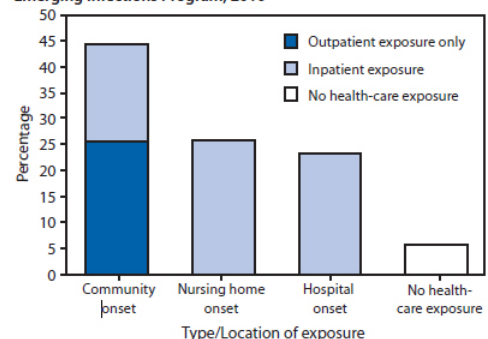
<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/undercover-82-year-grandma-catches-medicare-fraud-tape/story?id=15818462>

C. Difficile -- A Dangerous Bacteria Which is On the Rise:

C. Difficile is a dangerous bacteria which lives in the GI tract. Infections and deaths are on the rise. The CDC released a recent report. Here are some of the highlights. **(Click on Graphic to Enlarge)**

1. C. Difficile causes 337,000 infections and 14,000 deaths each year.
2. 94 percent of infections are related to medical care.
3. 25% of infections start in Hospitals, 50% start in Nursing Home or in Doctor's Offices or Clinics. Just under 45% are related to a patient being in a hospital (hospital or community onset).
4. Prevention includes infection control and smart use of antibiotics.

FIGURE 1. Percentage of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) cases (N = 10,342), by inpatient or outpatient status at time of stool collection and type/location of exposures* — United States, Emerging Infections Program, 2010



Other points to consider

1. Almost 50% of prescribed antibiotics are not needed.
2. Hand sanitizer (alcohol) does not kill C. Difficile. Ammonia does not reliably kill C. Difficile.
3. If a patient has C. Difficile, clean room with bleach and use gloves.
4. Test for C. Difficile if a patient has diarrhea is on and has been on antibiotics in last several months.

See Press & Information Release from CDC below:

-- CDC Press release: http://healthwatchusa.org/publications/2012-Documents/CDC_VS_C_Diff_press_release_03062012_final.pdf

-- CDC, Vital Signs March 6, 2012:
Report: http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/2012-Documents/Vital_Signs_Health_Care_Infections_dated_March_6_2012_eBook.pdf

Editor's Note: If I was a patient I would prefer having my room cleaned with bleach before I was assigned to it, regardless of the infection status of the patient that had the room before. In addition, washing hands with soap and water can remove the spores. Thus, preferably healthcare providers can use both soap and water, and then use alcohol rubs.

More Mergers between Hospitals, Insurers and Private Equity Firms are Predicted

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/08/health/hospital-groups-will-get-bigger-moodys-report-says.html>

Using Telemonitoring Geisinger Health Plan Reduces Admissions by 44%

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/geisinger-health-plan-and-amc-health-find-success-with-remote-patient-monitoring-2012-02-28>

US heart attack patients are more likely to have hospital readmissions than patients in other countries. JAMA Jan

2012 www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22215167

Hospitals Demand Payment For Routine Medical Problems Before Being Seen in ER - Washington Post Feb 18, 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/more-hospitals-charge-upfront-fees-for-non-urgent-care-in-emergency-rooms/2012/02/12/gIQAT2K5JR_story.html

Use of CT Scans Varies Between ER Doctor at the Same ER

-- A two fold overall variation in CT Scan ordering, and a three-fold variation for non-traumatic injuries.

[http://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343\(11\)00570-5/abstract](http://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343(11)00570-5/abstract)

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