



# Health Watch USA Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) May 26<sup>th</sup>, 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

## **The Battle Over Healthcare,**

by Rosemary Gibson and Janardan Prasad Singh. This book is excellent reading and gives anyone pause who thinks that monopolies will allow industry to improve quality and lower costs for the consumers. As stated by the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu, "If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading." Unless we change, we are headed for a health care system that few can afford and few will want.

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20120519/FEATURES06/305190027/Book-review-Battle-Over-Healthcare>

Physicians are getting a shrinking piece of the healthcare spending pie: The fastest rising costs are due to inpatient and outpatient hospital care. The employee and not the employer is picking up the majority of the cost increase.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/764098>

Bigger hospitals and mergers may be driving healthcare prices higher.

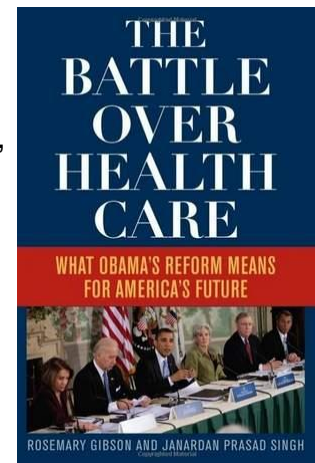
<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/bigger-hospitals-mergers-drive-higher-prices/2012-05-09>

Hospital mergers with insurance and private equity partners continue to grow hospital integration. FierceHealthcare. March 8, 2012. Health Affairs May, 2010.

<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/hospital-groups-grow-insurer-private-equity-partners/2012-03-08> <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/31/5/973.abstract>

Bipartisan bill would repeal the SGR and phase out Medicare Fee For Service.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/763589?sssdmh=dm1.783239>



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## **Patients give poor marks to the US Healthcare System:**

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Harvard School of Public Health found that

- 45% of sick people in this country see the quality of healthcare to be a very serious problem.
- 73% of sick people in this country see the cost of healthcare to be a very serious problem.
- 11% reported getting the wrong test, diagnosis or treatment.
- 8% reported getting an infection in the hospital.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2012/05/21/153019327/poll-what-its-like-to-be-sick-in-america>

[http://www.rwjf.org/files/downloads/Cost\\_Quality%20Summary%20Final20120518.pdf](http://www.rwjf.org/files/downloads/Cost_Quality%20Summary%20Final20120518.pdf)

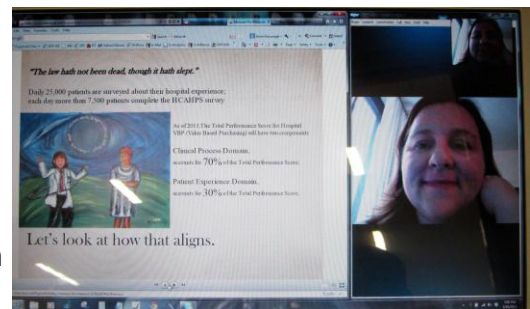
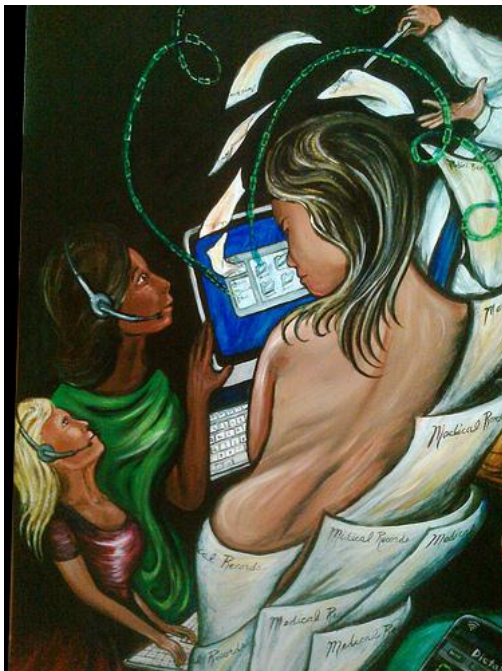
NPR also found that "34 percent of patients hospitalized for at least one night in the past year said nurses weren't available when needed or didn't respond quickly to requests for help." The number of RNs graduating has increased dramatically over the past decade, but many can't find jobs." -- Paraphrased from Dr. Linda Akien.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2012/05/25/153634317/need-a-nurse-you-may-have-to-wait>

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## Regina Holliday Presents at Health Watch USA

At the April 18th HW USA Meeting, Regina Holliday presented her work on Patient Advocacy Through Art.



The painting on the right begins in the middle with the patient, for this is patient centered care. The patient is relaxed, her back is bare. Cascades of paper medical records caress her legs as they fly up above her and into her electronic medical record. She is viewing this information using a patient portal.

To view the presentation on Measure-For-Measure go to:

<http://www.slideshare.net/ReginaHolliday/measure-for-measure-11762287>

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### **Excellent Graphic on the Cost of Medical Care:**

This very informative picture is too long to place in the Newsletter but can be viewed below:

<http://healthwatchusa.org/publications/medicalBillsCost.htm>

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### **CDC Calls for Screening of All Baby Boomers for Hepatitis-C**

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/cdc-recommends-hepatitis-c-tests-for-all-baby-boomers/2012/05/18/gIQAmRoWZU\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/cdc-recommends-hepatitis-c-tests-for-all-baby-boomers/2012/05/18/gIQAmRoWZU_story.html)

But what about setting standards for the screening of MRSA ???

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### **Link Between Low Staffing and Nursing Home Deaths**

<http://blog.directcarealliance.org/2012/05/study-finds-link-between-low-staffing-nursing-home-deaths/>

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### **New Government Site on Healthcare Cost and Quality**

<https://healthmeasures.aspe.hhs.gov/>

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### **Infection News:**

ICU Mortality is four times higher in patients who develop an infection

[http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/hospital-acquired-infections-quadruple-icu-deaths/2012-04-16?utm\\_medium=nl&utm\\_source=internal](http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/hospital-acquired-infections-quadruple-icu-deaths/2012-04-16?utm_medium=nl&utm_source=internal)

Expensive Hospital Readmissions Linked to Healthcare Associated Infections

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22561707>

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/05/120504135931.htm>

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### **Patient Web Rankings of Hospitals Found to be Accurate**

"... hospitals with high cleanliness ratings had a 42 percent lower rate of MRSA infections." -- Archives of Internal Medicine, March 12, 2012.

<http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1108770>

<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/patient-ratings-accurately-gauge-hospital-quality/2012-02-16>

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### **Extensive Healthcare Reporting in Alberta, Canada**

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/Publications/ahs-pub-pr-2011-12-performance-report.pdf>

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**Health Watch USA Fall Conference on Shared Decision Making**

--Nov 9th 2012 go to [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org) for more details.

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