



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Sept 1st, 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

Healthcare Consolidation and Integration is Leading to Increased Costs. HW USA Op-Ed in the Courier Journal.

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20120827/OPINION02/308270031/Kevin-Kavanaugh-Assessing-changes-reform>

(Graphic Source: Mike Licht, NotionsCapital.com)



Op-Ed References: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-References/editorial/20120808-RisingCosts-Healthcare.htm>

A Related Wall Street Journal Article on the rising costs of healthcare:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB1000087239639044371370457760113671007448.html>

C. Difficile:

Full Story in USA Today: "Far more could be done to stop this deadly bacteria". C. Difficile kills 30,000 Americans every year. Over 347,000 patients were hospitalized with C. Difficile in 2010. The healthcare industry has been slow to adopt proven strategies to reduce the infection. <http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/story/2012-08-16/deadly-bacteria-hospital-infections/57079514/1>

http://www.usatoday.com/USCP/PNI/Front%20Page/2012-08-16-HOSPITALINFECTIONS_ST_U.htm

Hospital Shows Improvement: Cuts C. Difficile rate by 50% in six months

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/story/2012-08-16/cincinnati-hospital-clostridium-difficile/57079520/1>

MRSA:

State of California Releases Their MRSA Report:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/hai/Pages/MRSAandVRE-Report.aspx>

Download Key Findings: <http://healthwatchusa.org/publications/2012-Documents/MRSAVREBSIsKeyFindings-2011.pdf>

Staph becoming resistant to chlorhexidine:

A reminder why proper stewardship of antibiotics and antiseptics is important.
<http://highwire.stanford.edu/cgi/medline/pmid;22833635>

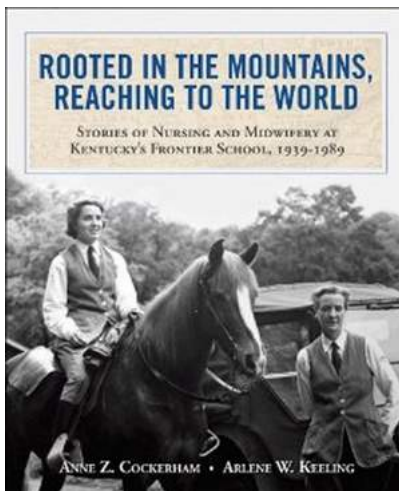
KPC--Klebsiella Pneumonia (CRE - Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae):

Isolation and Screening used by the NIH to successfully control a superbug outbreak.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/tracking-a-superbug-at-the-nih/2012/08/23/7b9c659e-ed63-11e1-b09d-07d971dee30a_story.html

Underreporting of Hospital Acquired Infections in California:

"a review of 100 hospitals by California public health officials found that facilities in 2011 failed to report as many as one-third of the infections they should have under state law. California Watch Reports."

<http://www.californiahealthline.org/articles/2012/8/10/hospital-centralline-infection-rates-down-by-10-state-says.aspx#ixzz23jdkZsKq>



Rooted in the Mountains, Reaching to the World - Book Review:

"The book is more about adventures involving horses shod with ice nails and the forging of swollen streams; about the power and courage of humanity to overcome obstacles, to instill hope where none existed."

<http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012308180018>

Why Hospital Rankings from Consumer Union, Leap Frog and US News & World Report Differ So Much:

<http://blogs.sph.harvard.edu/ashish-jha/hospital-rankings-get-serious/>

Accompanying Op-Ed by John Santa (Consumer Reports).

<http://blogs.sph.harvard.edu/ashish-jha/consumer-reports-reponse/>

Shared Decision Making and Informed Consent Improves Quality and Cuts Costs.

<http://www.healthleadersmedia.com/page-1/QUA-283486/Informed-Decision-May-Irk-Surgeons-as-it-Cuts-Costs-Improves-Quality>

Health One, Canceling Contract with Kentucky Medicaid Provider - Coventry Care

<http://www.kentucky.com/2012/08/16/2301588/kentuckyone-health-cancels-contract.html>

US Spends Far More For Healthcare than Any Other Industrialized Nation

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/News/News-Releases/2012/May/US-Spends-Far-More-for-Health-Care-Than-12-Industrialized-Nations-but-Quality-Varies.aspx>

New Massachusetts Law to Control Healthcare Cost

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/In-Brief/2012/Aug/Law-Tackles-Rising-Health-Care-Costs.aspx?omnicid=20>

HCA Probed for Unnecessary Heart Procedures

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/us-probes-hca-heart-procedures-hospital-billing/2012/08/06/88bdad0c-e02d-11e1-a19c-fcfa365396c8_story.html?wpisrc=nl_headlines

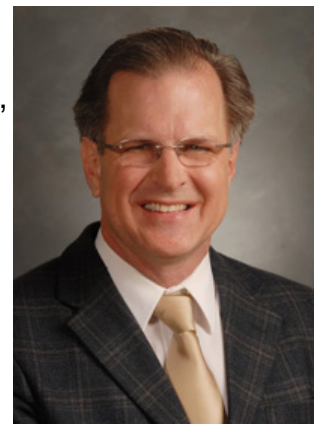
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/07/business/hospital-chain-internal-reports-found-dubious-cardiac-work.html?_r=2&hp

Patient-Advocate Kerry O'Connell Tells His Story in a Health Affairs Perspective.

Mr. O'Connell spoke at a Health Watch USA's meeting on April 20, 2011.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/31/8/1895.full>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/the-surgeon-said-he-could-fix-the-injured-arm-he-had-an-odd-definition-of-fix/2012/08/27/0857cffe-bf9d-11e1-95b8-18a2903941ea_story.html



Advocate Health Care ACO cuts readmissions by 30%

"13.6 percent for AdvocateCare versus 20 percent nationally."

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/14210407-418/new-health-practice-leading-to-better-patient-care.html>

New Law Starting Oct. 2012 will Penalize Hospitals (Eventually Up To 3% of Their Total Medicare Payments) with High Readmission Rates.

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2011/July/30/medicare-and-hospital-readmissions.aspx>

2012 Health Watch USA Conference Registration is Now Open.

This year's conference will center on Shared Decision Making and Value Purchasing -- Be sure you need the recommended healthcare and, if so, how to obtain low cost, high-quality healthcare.

Nov. 9th, 2012, Four Points Sheraton in Lexington, Kentucky.

See www.healthconference.org for more information.

Speakers Include:

- Howard Blackburn Jr. Chair Elect, Kentucky Society for Human Resource Managers on Value Purchasing.
- Rosemary Gibson. Author of the Treatment Trap on Medical Overutilization and Over Treatment.
- Patty Skolnik, Founder of Citizens for Patient Safety. Presenting on Shared Decision Making.
- Richard Wild, MD, Chief Medical Officer, CMS Atlanta Region on Hospital Safety and Value Purchasing.
- Leana W. Wen, MD. President of the American Academy of Emergency Physicians/Residents and Students Association on How to Avoid Misdiagnosis and Unnecessary Tests.
- Karen Curtiss, Author of Safe and Sound in the Hospital.
- Tihisha Rawlins, Associate Director of Advocacy, Kentucky AARP on Tips for Getting Safer Healthcare.
- Chandra Venettozzi (Ky CHFS, Office of Health Policy).
- Past U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Joycelyn Elders, on the Importance of Speaking Up.



Download Brochure: http://healthconference.org/2012conference_downloads/2012-Brochure.pdf

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<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Health-Watch-USA/153721114718392>



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