



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org October 5th, 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

US News and World Report Ranking System May Favor Academic Institutions.

Peter Slavin, President of Massachusetts General Hospital, the facility that was ranked first by US News and World Report but average by Consumer Reports:

"Different people care about different things," says Slavin. "Some are focused on safety, others on service and convenience, or are looking for the most innovative places where they are helping to write the textbooks(,) not just read them."

Safety refers to the avoidance of harm, such as bed ulcers, infections and complications.

<http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/personalfinance/story/2012/09/27/best-hospital-lists/57849162/1>

The Joint Commission Summit on Overuse of Medical Care -- Dr. Chassin

A very important Summit on the Overuse of Medical Care in the US Healthcare System.

<http://www.jointcommission.org/multimedia/national-summit-on-overuse-dr-chassin/>

Pod-Casts http://www.jointcommission.org/podcast.aspx?CategoryId=12&F_All=y

Proposed Program Funded by AHRQ on Patient Reporting of Medical Errors.

The AHRQ program is described in the NY Times:

<http://mobile.nytimes.com/2012/09/23/health/new-system-for-patients-to-report-medical-mistakes.xml>

Link to proposal in Federal Register: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/2012-Documents/20120910-PatientReptingMedErrors-AHRQ-proposal.pdf>

Comments must be submitted via email.

Written comments should be submitted to: Doris Lefkowitz, Reports Clearance Officer, AHRQ, by email at doris.lefkowitz@AHRQ.hhs.gov. Copies of the proposed collection plans, data collection instruments, and specific details on the estimated burden can be obtained from the AHRQ Reports Clearance Officer.

How Transparency can Empower Patients

Reviews of the book "Unaccountable"

The Atlantic Article "Transparency Can Empower Patients and Fix Healthcare"

<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2012/09/how-transparency-can-empower-patients-and-fix-health-care/262531/>

Wall Street Journal Article "How to Stop Hospitals from Killing Us":

http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB10000872396390444620104578008263334441352-IMyQjAxMTAyMDIwMjAyODI3Wj.html

PBS Series -- Money and Medicine

"Money & Medicine investigates the dangers the nation faces from runaway health care spending as well as the dangers patients face from over-diagnosis and over-treatment."

<http://www.pbs.org/programs/money-medicine/>

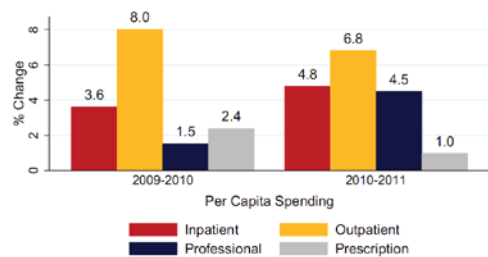
Health Care Cost Institute -- Report on 2011 Costs

Hospital and Provider Increases are Driving the Increase in Healthcare Costs

<http://www.healthcostinstitute.org/2011report>

<http://capsules.kaiserhealthnews.org/index.php/2012/09/higher-prices-by-hospitals-other-providers-drove-2011-spending-increases-study-finds/>

Figure 2
Change in Per Capita Spending by Major Service Category: 2009-2011



Note: All data weighted to reflect the national, younger than 65 ESI population.

Will Major Employers Require Employees to Pay more For Health Insurance ??

Sears and Darden Restaurants (Oliver Garden & Red Lobster) are going to give employees money and let them buy their coverage from an online marketplace. Half of Employers to Offer Employees Money to Buy Insurance on Exchanges.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/27/sears-health-insurance-darden_n_1920275.html

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390444549204578020640220260374.html>

NHSN (National Healthcare and Safety Network) has been Expanded

The NHSA has been expanded to allow reporting from Nursing Homes and Dialysis Centers.

C. Difficile and MRSA can now be reported from Long-term Care Facilities.

<http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/USCDC-53c09e>

Private Rooms May Cut Hospital Infection Rates

http://www.pressherald.com/news/to-cut-infection-hospitals-eye-private-rooms_2012-09-23.html

2012 Health Watch USA Conference Registration is Now Open

This year's conference will cover Healthcare Overutilization, Shared Decision Making and Value Purchasing -- Continuing Education Credits for 6.5 hours have been approved for MD, RN, LPN, ARNP, OT, and PT. Credits for SHRM and CLE are pending. (AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM)

Speakers: Among the nationally renowned speakers on Overutilization, Shared Decision Making and Unnecessary Healthcare are Rosemary Gibson, Patty Skolnik, Dr. Leana Wen and Dr. Joycelyn Elders.

Speakers on obtaining high quality, low cost, safe care are Dr. Richard Wild (CMS), Tahisha Rawlins (AARP), Karen Curtiss, Chandra Venettozzi (KY CHFS) and Howard Blackburn Jr. (SHRM).

Health Watch USA Presenters include Dr. Said Abusalem and Dr. Daniel Saman who will present on measures of quality, and Helen Bukulmez, JD who will present on medical devices.

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

Go To: www.healthconference.org for more information.

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



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