



Health Watch USA Newsletter

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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

2012 Consumer Union Conference:

Pictured to the right: Dr. Marty Makary, author of Unaccountable and Lisa McGiffert from Consumer Union.



2012 DHHS Progress Towards Eliminating Healthcare-Associated Infections Meeting

Pictured to the left: Mary Brennan-Taylor and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Healthcare Quality, Don Wright, MD, MP

[Download Copy of HAI Meeting PowerPoint](#)

Below are some points from the MRSA Breakout Session (2012 DHHS HAI Meeting):

- That MRSA is both a community and hospital problem. Hospitals are important stakeholders. However, who takes the lead in addressing this epidemic may differ between communities.
- More data is needed to better define this epidemic. For example: The carrier rate should be known in the general population of all communities.
- The definition of an "outbreak" needs to be numerically defined. Currently it is defined as "above baseline" which can lead to much variation in reporting and differing interpretations.
- MRSA surveillance needs to be a Tier I recommendation except for low risk populations. Intake forms may help in identifying individuals exposed to MRSA.
- A proper hospital workforce, staffing and staffing environment is needed to effectively address this epidemic.
- There is a need for guidelines to be stronger and more specific to help address this epidemic.

59% of Surveyed ICUs are Now Screening for MRSA.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23021413>

Study Observes that Patients Were a Major Reservoir for MRSA.

"Infection control efforts should focus on preventing transmission of MRSA from patients who are MRSA carriers" Infection Control and Epidemiology

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23041810>

Universal Surveillance on Admission with Contact Isolation in One Hospital May help Decrease MRSA in other Hospitals.

This is a very important article and points out that this is a community problem where one facility can affect others.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23048111>

This may also be true for nursing homes where spread between the nursing home to the hospital and back to the nursing home is possible.

The Alliance for Prudent Use of Antibiotics Releases a Joint Statement (CDC, CU, CDDEP, ASTHO, IDSA, IHI and others)

The Alliance has released a statement regarding antibiotic use and resistance to antibiotics in bacteria. Below are just two of their recommendations:

- To identify the most effective examples of antimicrobial stewardship and to replicate these strategies and best practices, while also taking into account local context
- To support research that deepens our understanding of the current situation and trends in antibiotic resistance and use

To read more regarding the alliance's recommendations go to:

http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/2012-Documents/20121119_consensus_statement-1.pdf

Killer Bug No Drugs -- Learn about CRE

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2012/11/29/bacteria-deadly-hospital-infection/1727667/>

CDDEP Relaunches the Antibiotic Resistance Map

Still in the Region where 70% of Staph Aureus Cultures are MRSA positive. <http://www.cddep.org/map>

Leapfrog Group has Posted Their Hospital Safety Score Report Card

Link to Kentucky Hospitals in Lexington Regions can be found by searching on zip 40509

<http://www.hospitalsafetyscore.org>

Effectiveness of Screening Mammography in Preventing Advanced Cancer Questioned by a NEJM Article

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1206809>

Doctors Joining Hospitals to Receive Higher Medicare Payments

This article demonstrated the growing realization that doctor - hospital integration is being driven by Medicare Payment Discrepancies. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-19/hospital-medicare-cash-lures-doctors-as-costs-increase.html>

CMS Posts New Website to Download Medicare Data

<https://data.medicare.gov>

Government Whistleblower Law, Now Protects Scientists Who Challenge Censorship by Government

<http://jobs.aol.com/articles/2012/11/28/obama-signs-whistleblower-protection-law/>

Projections Show Limited Savings From Meeting Quality Targets Under The Medicare Shared Savings Program

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23035036>

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