



# Health Watch USA Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) December 20<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

**Example of Value Purchasing:** An advertisement listing the differences in facility fees paid by Medicare between free-standing surgery centers and hospital out patient surgery departments.

(Click on Picture to Enlarge).

Service	Free-Standing Surgery Center	Hospital Outpatient Department
Appendectomy	\$1,200	\$2,500
Cholecystectomy	\$1,500	\$3,000
Colonoscopy	\$1,000	\$2,000
Endoscopy	\$800	\$1,500
Hernia Repair	\$1,800	\$3,500
Knee Replacement	\$15,000	\$30,000
Prostatectomy	\$12,000	\$25,000
Tonsillectomy	\$1,000	\$2,000
Uterine Sparing Myomectomy	\$1,500	\$3,000
Wound Debridement	\$500	\$1,000

**SCA SOMERSET SURGERY CENTER**  
Surgical Care Alliance 30 Hill Park, Somerset, NY 42053 • 908 479-8322 • www.SCAcenter-surgery.com

Private Companies Are Shopping For Better Value in Health Insurance.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-bargain-surgery-20121117,0,7716044>

**AMA calls for Patient Welfare to take Priority over the Interests of the Employer.**

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2012/11/26/pr11126.htm>

This issue was recently addressed by HW USA in an issue of the American College of Surgeons 'Surgery News' where it was advocated that the primary fiduciary responsibility of the physician should always be to the patient.

<http://www.acssurgerynews.com/opinions/editorials/single-article/the-changing-role-of-the-physician/9dbaf6056dcb9a966c5beef8cb438de6.html>

Health Watch USA has been active on this issue. HW USA placed a comment to CMS regarding proposed ACO regulations which appear to place the ACO Governing Body's fiduciary responsibility to the ACO and not the patient.

<http://healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/ACO-Berwick-11b.pdf>

**A Hospital War Reflects a Bind for Doctors in the U.S. - NY Times**

-- Integration Through Facility Fees, Production Quotas, Rising Medicare Costs.

"Many of the independent doctors complain that both hospitals, but especially St. Luke's, have too much power over every aspect of the medical pipeline, dictating which tests and procedures to perform, how much to charge and which patients to admit."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/01/business/a-hospital-war-reflects-a-tightening-bind-for-doctors-nationwide.html>

AHA Response. <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/10/opinion/when-hospitals-buy-doctor-practices.html>

## **Health Care Costs Increasing As Hospitals Employ Physicians**

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2012/12/17/3728676/as-doctors-flock-to-hospitals.html>

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## **Antiseptic Products Can Become Contaminated With Bacteria.**

A NEJM article by Chang and Furlong (2012) found that bacteria which are resistant to antiseptics can reside in the product and cause infections.

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1212680>

"The reported outcomes range from localized infections at injection sites to systemic infections resulting in death. The reports implicate all commonly used antiseptic categories, including alcohol, iodophors, chlorhexidine gluconate, and quaternary ammonium products. Some potentially pathogenic organisms, such as *Bacillus cereus*, *Burkholderia cepacia*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Serratia marcescens*, have been implicated in more than one outbreak."

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## **Hospital-Acquired Infections Associated With Higher Re-admission Rates**

[http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2012/05/28/prsc0528.htm?goback=%2Egde\\_1805565\\_member\\_194582410](http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2012/05/28/prsc0528.htm?goback=%2Egde_1805565_member_194582410)

## **Mercy Hospital in New Zealand Has Protocols for Addressing MRSA Colonization in Hospital Staff Members -- Screening and Decolonization.**

<http://www.mercyhospital.org.nz/files/dmfile/MRSAPolicy.pdf>

## **34 Ways To Lower Colon Infection Rates**

<http://www.healthleadersmedia.com/page-1/QUA-287034/34-Ways-to-Stop-Colorectal-Surgery-Infections>

## **C. Difficile Started In The United States and Canada, Associated With Fluoroquinolone Use**

<http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/news/2012/12/bugs-without-borders-researchers-track-emergence-global-spread-of-clostridium-difficile.aspx>

## **Dogs Can Identify C. Difficile In Stools**

(sensitivity 83%, 65% to 94%) and 265 of the 270 controls (specificity 98%, 95% to 99%).

<http://www.bmj.com/content/345/bmj.e7396>

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## **A New Patient Safety Organization is Promoting "Always Events"**

<http://alwaysevents.pickerinstitute.org>

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## **The Effects of Healthcare Consolidation and Integration**

<http://www.businessinsider.com/toby-cosgrove-hospital-consolidation-2012-11>

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## **Allegations of Medical Fraud Targeted at Large Medical Corporations**

- HMA (Hospital Chain) Accused of Medical Overuse in the ER Dept:  
[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18560\\_162-57556670/hospitals-the-cost-of-admission/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18560_162-57556670/hospitals-the-cost-of-admission/)
- Davida (Hemodialysis Provider) Accused of Fraud in Medication Delivery:  
<http://www.cnn.com/2012/11/30/health/medicare-fraud-case/index.html>

## **The Medical Misadventure Diagnostic Code.**

<http://www.icd9data.com/2012/Volume1/E000-E999/E870-E876/E876/E876.9.htm>

Unspecified misadventure during medical care - 2012 ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Code E876.9

- Short description: Medical misadventure NOS.
  - a billable medical diagnostic code on a reimbursement claim.
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## **Fixing the Loss Ratio For Medical Insurance has Caused Nearly \$1.5 Billion in Savings.**

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/Issue-Briefs/2012/Dec/Insurers-Responses-to-Regulation.aspx?omnicid=20>

However, will it motivate insurance companies to buy more expensive healthcare so they can raise their premiums and earn more ?

## **Six out of Every Seven Doctors Say the U.S. Health-care System Is Broken**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2012/11/15/six-out-of-every-seven-doctors-agree-our-health-care-system-doesnt-work/>

## **Only 18 States So Far Are Going To Run Their Own Exchanges.**

<http://capsules.kaiserhealthnews.org/index.php/2012/12/facing-deadline-most-states-say-no-to-running-their-own-insurance-exchanges/>

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## **Dartmouth Atlas on Differing Surgery Rates in Different Parts of the Country.**

<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TheDartmouthInstitut/fa135a65ec/d2b7cdfec5/eca7ca0cd6>

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