



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org January 11th, 2013

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

HW USA Letter in the New England Journal of Medicine Regarding the Observed Lack of Effect of the Non-Payment of CLABSIs in the Lowering of CLABSI Rates.

The CMS program of non-payment for central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLASBI) has produced only modest penalties levied at only a very few hospitals. The program is, however, symbolic and very important since it underscores the important principle that even though a hospital's maximum reimbursement rarely depends upon the billing of central line insertions, when patients become infected, CMS should not have to pay for these events.

Letter to the Editor Regarding "Nonpayment for Preventable Infections in U.S. Hospitals". New England Journal of Medicine. 2012; Jan. 368:191-192. <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc1213732>

Hospitals Face Increased Scrutiny for Charging Facility Fees.

HW USA participated in the development of this story and is quoted in this story. Washington Post, Dec. 23, 2012.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/hospitals-face-increased-scrutiny-for-charging-facility-fees/2012/12/22/176ed6b4-4962-11e2-820e-17eefac2f939_story.html

A HW USA Op-Ed has been published by US News & World Report (Jan. 111, 2013) in the "Two Takes" opinion section. The opposing view is by Rich Umbdenstock President and CEO of the American Hospital Association. Currently the Op-Ed is in the subscription section but the general public will be able to view it late next week. When available our next newsletter will link to these editorials.

Other articles on this subject:

Davis D. Medical billing, a world of hurt: Patients confused about hospital charges for doctors visits. Cleveland.com Sept. 22, 2012 http://www.cleveland.com/healthfit/index.ssf/2012/09/medical_billing_a_world_of_hur_4.html

Neff J. Doctors join hospitals, and prices soar. Newsobserver.com Dec. 16, 2012
<http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/12/15/2547121/doctors-join-hospitals-and-prices.html>

Ostrom CM. Why you might pay twice for one visit to doctor. Seattle times. Nov. 3, 2012.
http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2019600338_facilityfees04m.html

CMS Hospital Readmission Penalty.

A recent story in the New York Times has indicated that the Penalty from CMS's initiative to curb high rates of hospital readmissions may be too stringent. However, according to the Advisory Board Company: "According to government estimates, about two-thirds of hospitals serving Medicare beneficiaries will face the penalties averaging around \$125,000 per facility in 2013."

<http://www.advisory.com/Daily-Briefing/2012/10/01/Two-ACA-payment-programs-launch-today>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/27/health/hospitals-face-pressure-from-medicare-to-avert-readmissions.html>

Rand Report Fails to Find a Consistent Relationship Between Increased Spending and Increased Quality

<http://www.foxnews.com/health/2013/01/03/link-between-health-care-spending-quality-unclear>

Source Article in Annals of Internal Medicine:
<http://annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=1487781>

Healthcare Acquired Infections

NEJM Discusses Screening for MultiResistant Drug Organisms & Preventing Lethal Hospital Outbreaks of Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1212370>

MRSA Genetic Code - Tracking The Spread of MRSA in Hospital Staff

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2232720/Doctors-stop-hospital-outbreak-MRSA-cracking-genetic-code-tracking-health-care-worker-carrying-bacteria.html>

MRSA and C. Difficile Hospital Acquired Infections are Leading to Higher Readmission Rates

<http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2012/05/28/prsc0528.htm>

Antibiotics Do Not Help Most Lower Respiratory Infections

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/antibiotics-dont-help-lower-respiratory-tract-infections/2012/12/24/c92fd0de-4862-11e2-820e-17eefac2f939_story.html

New York Files a Save Nurse Staffing Bill

<http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/bill/S1634-2013>

Read HW USA Manuscript on the Importance of Nursing - Published in the Journal of Nursing Scholarship. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1547-5069.2012.01469.x/full>

Walmart Bails on Providing Insurance Coverage to Workers who Work Less than 30 Hours A Week.

These workers may go to the Health Insurance Exchanges.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/01/walmart-health-care-policy-medicare-obamacare_n_2220152.html

Health Insurance Premiums Account for 20% or More of the Annual Median Family Incomes in 35 States, Affecting 80% of the U.S. Working-Age Population.

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Newsletters/The-Commonwealth-Fund-Connection/2012/Dec/December-17-2012/Whats-New/Employer-Health-Insurance.aspx?omnicid=15>

Cut Unnecessary Surgeries Using Evidence Based Criteria

NEJM looks at the appropriateness of elective procedures -- Total Joint Arthroplasty

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1209998>

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



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