



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Jan 28th, 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

The Rising Cost of Healthcare -- Hospital Facility Fees ** US NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Two op-eds on this subject with two different views were published in US News & World Report.

- An Op-Ed in favor of reducing facility fees by Kevin Kavanagh, Board Chairman Health Watch USA <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2013/01/28/hospital-facility-fees-raise-out-of-pocket-costs-for-medicare-patients>
Op Ed References: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-References/editorial/20130111-hopital-facility-fees.htm>
- AN Op-Ed not in favor of reducing facility fees by Rich Umbdenstock, President and CEO, American Hospital Association <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2013/01/28/congress-cant-cut-medicare-hospital-outpatient-payments>

Other News Articles Covering the Issue of Facility Fees:

- Hospital Lobbying Power Prevents Facility Fee Cut: <http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/hospitals-hold-lobbying-power/2013-01-07>
- Caramenico A. Hospitals Defend physician employment model amid FTC scrutiny. FierceHealthcare. Dec. 12, 2012. <http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/hospitals-defend-physician-employment-model-amid-ftc-scrutiny/2012-12-12>
- Schulte F. Hospitals face increased scrutiny for charging facility fees. 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
- 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 the doctor. Seattle Times. Nov. 3, 2012. http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2019600338_facilityfees04m.html

Other Health Watch USA Publications on Facility Fees:

- Health Care Integration: Will Physicians lose their voice? Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons. 2011 Jun;96(6):28-30. PMID: 22315908 FREE ACCESS http://www.facs.org/fellows_info/bulletin/2011/kavanagh0611.pdf
- Kavanagh KT. The changing role of the physician. American College of Surgeons, Surgical News. Oct 23, 2012. <http://www.acssurgerynews.com/opinions/editorials/single-article/the-changing-role-of-the-physician/9dbaf6056dcb9a966c5beef8cb438de6.html>
- Kavanagh KT. Health Care Storm is Brewing - Courier Journal, Louisville, Kentucky, Dec. 8, 2010. http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Publications/Courier-Journal/20101209-CJ-Health_Care_Storm_Brewing-HWUSA.pdf

Success Reported in Preventing CLABSIs for Six Years

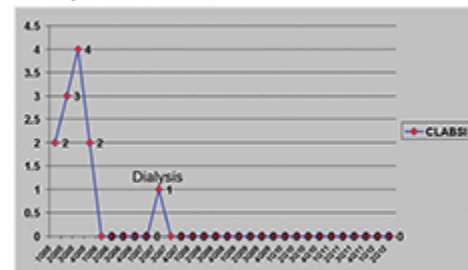
Sutter Roseville Medical Center in Orlando, FL

Download full report:

http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/2013-Documents/20120124_PreventionCKABSU_IHI_2012.pdf

[Click on Picture to Enlarge](#)

*Incidence of CLABSI in all Central Lines
January 2005 – June 2012*



CLABSI indicated in graph above was inserted and maintained by contracted agency that did not follow Sutter Roseville Medical Center policies or Central line bundle.

Regulations Enacted to Prevent Sepsis:

NY Governor Cuomo Plans Regulations to Require Hospitals to Take Aggressive Steps to Stop Sepsis.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/08/nyregion/cuomo-to-order-hospitals-to-use-new-sepsis-procedures.html>

Rise in Bacteria called Apocalyptic Scenario

<http://news.yahoo.com/rise-superbugs-called-apocalyptic-scenario-162449696.html>

Value Purchasing -- Which Hospitals are Getting Awards and Which are Getting Penalties.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/PublicHealthPolicy/Medicare/36820>

Hospital Readmission Policy - CMS Penalties for 2013.

Kaiser Healthcare News has posted a data file listing all of the readmission and value purchasing penalties and Bonuses levied in the US for 2013.

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2012/December/21/medicare-hospitals-value-based-purchasing.aspx>

Is the Policy of Restricting Insurance Company's Medical Loss Ratio Trading Short Term Savings for Long Term Expenses ??

Does it make it beneficial for health insurance companies to buy more expensive healthcare and raise their premiums ? Read more in a HW USA post on the Commonwealth Fund's Blog:

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

Hospitals Generate 2.3 Trillion in Economic Activity.

However, is this a good finding or bad ?? The US is projected to spend 20% of its GDP on healthcare by 2012.

<http://www.beckershospitalreview.com/racs/-/icd-9/-/icd-10/us-hospitals-generate-23-trillion-in-economic-activity.html>

NY Nurse Safe Staffing Bill has been filed:

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

The Projected Physician Shortage Maybe Offset with the Use of Non-Physicians.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/32/1/11.abstract>

New Push for the Public Healthcare Option:

<http://video.foxnews.com/v/2101510511001/push-for-health-insurance-public-option-to-slash-debt/>

When Doctors Don't Listen

Dr. Leana Wen's book "When Doctors Don't Listen: How to Avoid Misdiagnoses and Unnecessary Tests" has been published.

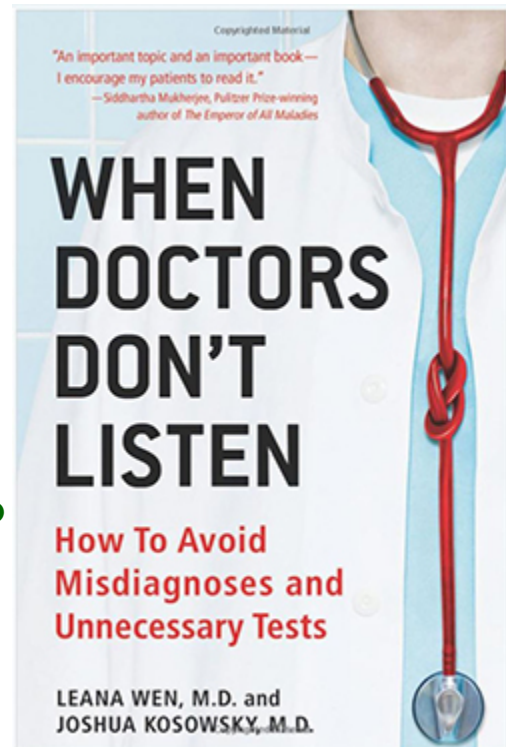
- For more information go to: <http://www.whendoctorsdontlisten.com/>
- To view Dr. Wen's HW USA Presentation go to: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2012/videos-wen/20121107-wen.htm>

How Metal-on-Metal Hip Implants Made it to the Market.

"The 510(k) Ancestry of a Metal-on-Metal Hip Implant <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1211581>

36% five-year failure rate for JJ Metal Hip Implants. Far above the generally accepted norm of 5%.

<http://www.fiercemedicaldevices.com/story/report-ji-knew-hip-failure-years-recall/2013-01-23>



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