



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Aug. 5th, 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

Disclosure key to curbing medical errors; UK board should demand it

(Lexington Herald Leader Op-Ed) "The non-disclosure of problems and adverse events at UK hospital would be comparable to UK not providing basketball scores for badly played and lost games and instead issuing a press release stating: "We played well, all the fans want to know is (to paraphrase Dr. Michael Karpf) that we're committed to doing the very best we can." Or the athletic department stating: "We would release the team's statistics, but they are too complicated for fans to understand." The Big Blue Nation would tolerate neither statement in lieu of the data."

<http://www.kentucky.com/2013/08/11/2760636/ky-voices-disclosure-key-to-curbing.html>



Patients surprised by hospital's 'co-pay' charge for facility fees from doctor visits.

"The landscape of health care has changed, and patients really need to be educated and ask what these charges are going to be up front." WFAA Channel 8 News. Dallas, TX. Aug. 12, 2013.

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/investigates/patients-surprised-by-hospital-co-pay-charge-219321861.html>

Health Watch USA submits comment on CMS's regulations to study facility fees

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An Infectious Disease Outbreak at One Hospital Affects All Hospitals.

"Hospitals in the most populated area of the county were most likely to spread VRE to other hospitals, according to the study, which was published in the August issue of the *American Journal of Infection Control*."

<http://www.healthfinder.gov/News/Article.aspx?id=678753>

Superbugs Are Overpowering Antibiotics Even Faster Than the CDC Expected

<http://motherboard.vice.com/blog/superbugs-are-overpowering-antibiotics-even-faster-than-the-cdc-expected>

How Do Surgical Complications Affect Hospital Finances

"For patients who were insured mostly by Medicare or private insurance, hospital reimbursement (net revenue) was \$8084 higher in the group with 1 or more complications."

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/808154>

In Need of a New Hip, but Priced Out of the U.S. - Medical Tourism Back in the Spotlight.

"The basic design of artificial joints has not changed for decades. But increased volume — about one million knee and hip replacements are performed in the United States annually — and competition have not lowered prices, as would typically happen with products like clothes or cars."

Cost of Hip Replacement in Belgium \$13,660, Cost of Knee Replacement in the U.S. \$125,000.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/04/health/for-medical-tourists-simple-math.html>

Transitional Care Cut Hospital Readmissions For North Carolina Medicaid Patients With Complex Chronic Conditions by 20%.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/32/8/1407.abstract>

Former President George W. Bush's decision to allow doctors to use a stent to clear a blocked heart artery, performed absent symptoms, is reviving a national debate on the best way to treat early cardiac concerns.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-08-06/former-president-s-stent-surgery-reopens-debate-on-heart-care.html>

Estimate the Amount You Will Pay for Health Insurance in the Healthcare Exchanges

Kaiser Foundation Federal Subsidy Calculator

<http://kff.org/interactive/subsidy-calculator>

September 11, 2013 HW USA Meeting

Dr. Shari Ling, CMS Deputy Chief Medical Officer, will present on Sept. 11, 2013 at 5:00 pm during the Health Watch USA meeting.

<http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Leadership/ocsq/Shari-M-Ling-MD.html>



Topics to be discussed:

- Our Goals and Early Results
- Value-based purchasing and quality improvement programs
- 2014 Physician Fee Schedule Quality Proposals
- Quality Measurement to Drive Improvement
- Future and Opportunities for collaboration

The presentation slides may be downloaded at:

http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/2013-Documents/20130731-Conway_HealthWatch_USA_Meeting_073113.pdf

Health Watch USAsm Patient Safety Conference

Nov. 1, 2013

Lexington, Kentucky
at the Four Points Sheraton

For more information go to:
www.healthconference.org
Click here for [Conference Brochure](#)



Online Registration is Now Open - PayPal and Credit Cards
www.healthconference.org/payment-fax-check.htm

A wide range of healthcare topics will be presented in the 2013 Health Watch USA Conference. Topics to be covered range from the responsibility of the employed physician, the public reporting (Sunshine Act) of drug/device company support of physicians, the safety and regulation of medical devices, and the problem of nursing burnout. In addition, presentations on the culture of safety will cover the policy of fully disclosing medical errors, avoiding a culture of blame and how high infection rates may indicate broader problems in an institution's safety culture.

Speakers include: Past Surgeon General, Joycelyn Elders, MD, CMS Chief Medical Director for the Atlanta Region, Richard Wild, MD, Steve Kraman, MD, Daniel Saman, DrPH, MPH and The Associate Director of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing, Jeannie Cimiotti, DnSC, RN.

In addition, nationally known patient advocates, Helen Haskell (founder of Mothers Against Medical Error), Jolene Chambers and Martha Deed will be presenting on the topics of learning from patient stories, the safety of medical devices and engagement of hospitals on patient safety.

For a Full Agenda and Speaker Resumes Go To:
<http://www.healthconference.org/agenda.htm>

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