



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Sept 9, 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

Health Insurance Surcharge on Smokers Under Kentucky Health Reform Shortsighted

HW USA Op-Ed Lexington Herald Leader: "The penalty for smoking and tobacco use is often death, but this should not be premature and by the hand of our society. Although personal responsibility needs to be encouraged, changing social behavior by effectively prohibiting access to health care is unacceptable." <http://www.kentucky.com/2013/09/05/2804322/surcharge-on-smokers-under-ky.html>

Editorial on this subject by the Lexington Herald Leader Editorial Board: <http://www.kentucky.com/2013/09/08/2810231/pricing-smokers-out-of-health.html>

Kaiser Family Foundation ACA Subsidy Calculator: <http://kff.org/interactive/subsidy-calculator/>

The picture to the right was submitted by Dr Kavanagh to the Country of Jamaica and will appear on tobacco packages sold in the country.



IBM to place 110,000 retirees on the Health Exchanges

IBM continues the trend of employers not offering health insurance but instead placing workers on the exchanges. <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/09/07/ibm-to-move-retirees-off-health-plan/>

Health Insurance Rates for 17 States are Published by the Kaiser Foundation.

These rates do not include the tobacco penalty, deductibles and co-pays; and 6 states have 3 or less insurers participating in the exchanges.

<http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/early-look-at-premiums-and-participation-in-marketplaces.pdf>

Health Care Costs Climb Moderately, Survey Says

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/21/business/survey-finds-modest-rise-in-health-insurance-premiums.html>

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Identification and epidemiology of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus and Clostridium difficile in patient rooms and the ward environment

"In patient rooms and the ward environment, specific materials and locations were identified as being contaminated with MRSA or C. difficile. These sites should be cleaned and disinfected with increased

vigilance to help limit the transmission and dissemination of MRSA and C. difficile within the hospital."
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2334/13/342>

41% of patient rooms had 1 or more surfaces with MRSA and/or C.difficile
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2334/13/342>

KY Grant to Confront Multi-Resistant Drug Organisms

Kentucky received \$485,208 up from \$96,106 last year, more than 5 times as much.
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/aca-elc-fy2013-funding-8-30-2013.pdf>

Deep Infection, Most Common Reason for Total Hip Readmission

"The most common re-admitting diagnoses (for total hip arthroplasty) were deep infection, pain, and hematoma. Average profit was lower for episodes of care with readmissions (\$1548 vs. \$2872, P = 0.028)." <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0883540313004920#>

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Low-Risk Thyroid Cancer Over Diagnosed, Over Treated

"Zealous" imaging is fueling the over diagnosis and over treatment of subclinical low-risk thyroid cancer in the United States, researchers warn in a new report"
http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/810129?nlid=33018_1901&src=wnl_edit_dail

North Carolina Requires Hospitals to Post Prices

"An Ankle MRI price range: \$400 to \$2100"
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/08/27/want-to-know-if-your-hospital-is-a-rip-off-move-to-north-carolina/>

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HW USA Meeting On Sept. 11 -- This Wednesday !! Mark your calendar for our next HW USA meeting with Dr. Shari Ling, CMS Deputy Chief Medical Officer, on Sept 11, 2013 at 5:00 pm EDT. Let us know if you can attend so we have an idea regarding the number on the webinar. To reserve a place, send an email to healthwatchusa@gmail.com Dr. Shari Ling, CMS Deputy Chief Medical Director will discuss CMS Value Purchasing Initiatives.



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

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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
http://www.healthconference.org/2013conference_downloads/2013-Brochure.pdf

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 USAsm 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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