



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Oct. 10, 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 Article: Medicare Expenditures and Tort Reform.

HW USA's article on Tort Reform and Medicare Expenditures using the Dartmouth Institute Data has been published in the Journal of Patient Safety. This is a very current topic since it relates to the issue of defensive medicine and if tort reform can be used as one of the strategies for an Affordable Care Act alternative.

http://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Abstract/publishahead/The_Relationship_Between_Tort_Reform_and_Medical.99809.aspx



(Download PDF of Article by Clicking on 'Article as PDF' in the right-hand 'Article Tools Menu')

HW USA Commentary (Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy):

A Perspective on How the United States Fell Behind Northern Europe in the Battle Against Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus.

This commentary reviews the major papers regarding MRSA Surveillance published over the last decade and gives a perspective on the decision making which lead to the abandonment of surveillance as an essential component to control the MRSA epidemic.

"In view of the severity of the multi-resistant drug organism epidemic in the United States, a reevaluation of setting standards of care for the expanded and uniform use of MRSA active surveillance testing should be undertaken. [Download PDF of Commentary](#)

MRSA in Surgical Wards Found to be Reduced by Bundled Intervention which Includes Surveillance. -- A Large Multi-Institutional, Multi-National European Trial

" In surgical wards with relatively low MRSA prevalence, a combination of enhanced standard and MRSA-specific infection control approaches was required to reduce MRSA rates. Implementation of single interventions was not effective, except in clean surgery wards where MRSA screening coupled with contact precautions and decolonization was associated with significant reductions in MRSA clinical culture and infection rates." <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/3/9/e003126>

Needless Stents Alleged at Kentucky Hospital Amid 2-Year Probe

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-07/needless-stents-alleged-at-kentucky-hospital-amid-2-year-probe.html>

Mapping America's Coronary Stent Hot Spots

<http://go.bloomberg.com/multimedia/mapping-coronary-stent-hot-spots/>

Antibiotic Prescribing to Adults With Sore Throat in the United States, 1997-2010

"...the antibiotic prescribing rate dropped from roughly 80% to 70% around 1993 and dropped again around 2000 to 60%, where it has remained stable. This still far exceeds the 10% prevalence of GSA (Group A Strep) among adults seeking care for sore throat." Although guideline recommended, the use of penicillin was infrequent.

<http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1745694>

Time is Growing Short -- Register Now !!!



Health Watch USASM Patient Safety Conference Nov. 1, 2013

Lexington, Kentucky
at the Four Points Sheraton

Online Registration is Now Open - PayPal and Credit Cards

www.healthconference.org/payment-fax-check.htm

For more information go to: www.healthconference.org

Click here for [Conference Brochure](#)

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 Patient and Family Centered Care, 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, Karen D. Meyers, MBA/JD, MEd.

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.

Continuing Education Credits (6.25 hrs) have been approved for Physician/Physician Assistant/Nurse Practitioner/Nursing Home Administrator (AMA Category I Credits), and Nursing. Similar to last year Applications for Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy have been placed and approval is expected.

For an update on continuing education go to the bottom of the page at <http://www.healthconference.org>

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



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