



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Oct. 24, 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

Medicare Patient Surveys (HCAHPS) Efficacy in Predicting Healthcare Quality.

Health Watch USA's Letter to the Editor regarding the value of using Medicare Patient Surveys in predicting healthcare quality. This is an important policy point since these surveys are one of the measures used in determining hospital payments (Medicare's value purchasing initiative). The letter is in response to an article which found little beneficial effect on quality metrics.

JAMA-Surgery: <http://archsurg.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1756992>

Safety Issues of Medical Devices - Should They Have a Warranty?

Lisa McGiffert from Consumer Union and Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA discuss the safety of medical devices on the Jack Pattie Radio show. A case is made for a manufacturer's warranty and a registry or reporting system to track adverse events associated with implanted devices.



Shortened Audio Presentation: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Meeting/20131022-CU-Medical-Devices/HWUSA-Radio-Giffert-Kavanagh.htm>

New APIC Poster on What Patients Can do to Prevent Healthcare Acquired Infections.

Empowering patients to be proactive in preventing healthcare acquired infections.

- Make sure visitors, nurses and doctors wash their hands.
- Make sure your room is clean.
- If you have a catheter, ask everyday if you still need it.
- Take medications as directed.
- Take a shower and use a germ-killing soap before surgery.
- Sneeze into your elbow.
- Most important SPEAK UP for your care.

APIC Poster: [Download PDF of Poster](#)



Data From Two Major New Studies Indicate that Gloves/Gowns/Hand-washing Without Other Interventions May Not Be Enough To Stop The Spread of Resistant Bacteria.

Gloves and Gowns: <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1752753>

Hand Hygiene: <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/3/9/e003126>

Hospital Administrative Data May Underestimate the Rate of Pressure Ulcers.

Hospital scores derived from acquired pressure ulcer Stage 3 and 4 (HAPU2+) rates "varied considerably according to whether administrative or surveillance data were used, suggesting that administrative data may not be appropriate for comparing hospitals."

<http://annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=1748841>



Time is Growing Short -- Register Now !!!



**Health Watch USAsm
Patient Safety Conference
Nov. 1, 2013 at 8:30 am**
Onsite Attendance Desk Opens at 7:15 am

Lexington, Kentucky
at the Four Points Sheraton

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

To View Channel 18 Pre-Conference news video: [View Video](#)

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

A wide range of healthcare topics will be presented at 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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