



# Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Nov. 1st, 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 Care Acquired Infections

### MRSA on the decline across VA hospitals

The initiative found continued decrease of 36.4% MRSA in their facilities and a 5% decrease in those admitted to the facility.

The initiative calls for the VA and its caregivers to:

- Screen every patient for MRSA;
- Use gowns and gloves when caring for patients colonized or infected with MRSA;
- Follow hand-hygiene guidelines;
- Create an institutional culture change focusing on individual responsibility for infection control; and
- Establish an MRSA prevention coordinator position at each medical center.

Read more: FierceHealthcare <http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/mrsa-decline-across-va-hospitals/2013-10-29>

### PBS Frontline - Hunting the Nightmare Bacteria

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/hunting-the-nightmare-bacteria/>

### AHRQ Promoting Universal Decolonization to Control Multi-Resistant Drug Organisms.

[http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/systems/hospital/universal\\_icu\\_decolonization/index.html](http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/systems/hospital/universal_icu_decolonization/index.html)

However, some feel this approach should be viewed with caution and advocate surveillance and isolation as the main prevention modality. A Perspective on How the United States Fell Behind Northern Europe in the Battle Against Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus.

<http://aac.asm.org/content/early/2013/09/24/AAC.01839-13.full.pdf+html>

### Gloves and Gowns Do Not Stop All Infections in Hospitals - TIME Magazine

<http://healthland.time.com/2013/10/05/gloves-and-gowns-dont-stop-spread-of-all-infections-in-hospitals/>

## **The U.S. Has a Very High Rate of Inappropriate Use of Antibiotics**

CDC warned that antibiotic resistance -- fueled by inappropriate use of the drugs -- is reaching a crisis.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/IDWeek/42052>

## **Sepsis Costs and Deaths are higher in Teaching Hospitals**

When the highest severity of illness was analyzed, patients in teaching hospitals were observed to have higher hospital charges and a trend for a higher death rate than non-teaching hospitals.

<http://www.healio.com/pediatrics/emerging-diseases/news/online/%7B1dc988dc-6453-4a84-bb12-94ab850dd369%7D/sepsis-cost-mortality-higher-in-teaching-hospitals>

## **Health Care Financing and Reform**

### **Health co-ops, created to foster competition and lower insurance costs, are in danger**

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/health-co-ops-created-to-foster-competition-and-lower-insurance-costs-are-facing-danger/2013/10/22/e1c961fe-3809-11e3-ae46-e4248e75c8ea\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/health-co-ops-created-to-foster-competition-and-lower-insurance-costs-are-facing-danger/2013/10/22/e1c961fe-3809-11e3-ae46-e4248e75c8ea_story.html)

### **What the U.S. Can Learn from Germany's Drug Assessment and Value-Based Pricing Initiative**

The Commonwealth Fund: "As part of its efforts to control costs while still ensuring access to a range of therapies, Germany mandates that all newly introduced drugs be subject to an assessment of their benefits in relation to a comparator, typically the current standard treatment."

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/Issue-Briefs/2013/Oct/Early-Benefit-Assessment-for-Pharmaceuticals-in-Germany.aspx?omnicid=20>

## **Drug and Device Representatives**

### **Removing Sales Representatives From The Operating Room**

<http://www.healthleadersmedia.com/print/MAG-297204/Removing-Sales-From-the-OR>

### **Madras Clinic Bans Sales Representatives and Samples**

The Bulletin: "Surveys of physician practices by market-research firm SK&A in 2010 and 2011 found that about a quarter of physicians do not see drug reps. About three-quarters of practices still accept free drug samples."

<http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20130715/BIZ0102/307149998/0/SEARCH>

### **Hospital Entering the Insurance Market**

Fiercehealthpayer: "... insurers might see some new competition from providers that are launching their own health plans. MedStar Health, the largest health system in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, is doing just that with its latest health plan offering called MedStar Select."

<http://www.fiercehealthpayer.com/story/population-health-management-propels-hospitals-insurance-market/2013-10-11>

## Patient Safety

### Hospitals with more nursing staff have lower rates of readmissions

Health Affairs: "Hospitals with higher nurse staffing had 25 percent lower odds of being penalized compared to otherwise similar hospitals with lower staffing."

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/32/10/1740.abstract>

### Robot Surgery Damaging Patients Rises With Marketing

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-08/robot-surgery-damaging-patients-rises-with-marketing.html>

### Empowered Patient Coalition APP

Its free and available in the I-Pad APP Store

### Trouble in the Lab: Research Error is All Too Common

The Economist: "Various factors contribute to the problem. Statistical mistakes are widespread. The peer reviewers who evaluate papers before journals commit to publishing them are much worse at spotting mistakes than they or others appreciate. Professional pressure, competition and ambition push scientists to publish more quickly than would be wise. A career structure which lays great stress on publishing copious papers exacerbates all these problems"

<http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21588057-scientists-think-science-self-correcting-alarming-degree-it-not-trouble>

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**Time is Short -- Register Now !!!**



## Health Watch USA<sup>SM</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.healthconference.org)

Click here for [Conference Brochure](#)

A wide range of healthcare topics will be presented at the 2013 Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> 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>

To subscribe to Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> newsletter go to: <http://www.hwusa-newsletter.org/lists/?p=subscribe&id=1>



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