



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

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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

Medical Devices

FDA Recalls Medtronic Device With Possible Defective Guidewires.

<http://www.foxnews.com/health/2013/11/17/fda-warns-defective-medtronic-devices/?intcmp=latestnews>

DePuy (Johnson & Johnson) Announces Hip Implant Settlement

"The U.S. settlement is valued at approximately \$2.5 billion, based on an estimate of 8,000 patients participating in the program. "

<http://www.jnj.com/news/all/DePuy-Announces-US-Settlement-Agreement-to-Compensate-ASR-Hip-System-Patients-Who-Had-Surgery-to-Replace-Their-ASR-Hip>

Health Care Infections

The Global Status of Antimicrobial Resistance

The Lancet: "A global system for surveillance of antibiotic use and resistance and its health and economic burden is urgently needed. Surveillance should include environmental sampling in addition to examination of clinical isolates."

"A successful example is the significant reduction in MRSA bacteraemia in hospitals in the UK since implementation of mandatory MRSA surveillance in 2001.115 Surveillance of bacterial resistance generates essential information, which promotes and directs stewardship activities. "

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099%2813%2970318-9/abstract>

Health Care Overutilization

Choosing Wisely Campaign - An Initiative of the the ABIM Foundation

Helping Physicians and Patients Make Smart Decisions About Their Care. This program is endorsed by over 100 medical societies including the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons and The American College of Physicians.

<http://www.abimfoundation.org/Professionalism/Physician-Charter/Endorsements-of-the-Charter.aspx>

Download Just a Few of the Recommendations by Medical Societies to Reduce Overuse.

[Download Handout](#)

The Statin Calculator Controversy:

More Than a Billion People Taking Statins? Potential Implications of the New Cardiovascular Guidelines:

- Sales may approach 1 trillion dollars:
<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleID=1787389>
- The American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology Stand Firm
http://www.medpagetoday.com/Cardiology/Prevention/42977?xid=nl_mpt_DHE_2013-11-19
- Statins by the Numbers: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/30/opinion/statins-by-numbers.html>

Healthcare Finance and Reform

KYNECT Performing As Planned. As of Nov 21, 2013: Thanks to kynect, more than 56,000 Kentuckians are enrolled in new health insurance, and 41 percent of them are under the age of 35 - a rate that has held steady for several weeks. Kentucky's health exchange, kynect, continues to enroll about 1,000 Kentuckians each day into new health coverage.

<http://migration.kentucky.gov/newsroom/governor/20131122kynectupdate.htm>

- 56,422 enrolled in new health coverage, including Medicaid and private insurance
- 45,622 have enrolled in Medicaid and 10,800 have enrolled in a qualified health plan
- 27 percent of the enrollees in qualified health plans are 35 years old or younger
- 22,401 have been found eligible for a subsidy to purchase a qualified health plan, but most have not yet chosen a plan

Hospital Asking Price Does Affect Medicare Reimbursements

OIG calls for more scrutiny: citing "concerns about why charges and estimated costs for similar patient care cases vary substantially across hospitals." Called Outlier Payments, how much hospitals are paid is influenced by the Asking (Sticker) Price not the cost of service. 158 Hospitals received an average of 12.8% of their total Medicare payments from this reimbursement category.

<http://www.healthleadersmedia.com/print/FIN-298388/OIG-Calls-for-More-Scrutiny-of-Medicare-Hospital-Outlier-Payments>

View a list of the hospitals <http://www.scribd.com/doc/184457592/OIG-List-of-Medicare-Hospital-Outlier-Payments>

Insurers are Limiting their Network to Control Costs

Washington Post: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/insurers-restricting-choice-of-doctors-and-hospitals-to-keep-costs-down/2013/11/20/98c84e20-4bb4-11e3-ac54-aa84301ced81_story.html?wpisrc=nl_headlines

Insurers are cutting fees and plans may attract fewer doctors.

Wall Street Journal:

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304607104579212450545926912>

Large Discrepancies Found in Medicare Spending on Post-Hospital Care

Washington Post: "After years of trying to clamp down on hospital spending, the federal government

wants to get control over what Medicare spends on nursing homes, home health services and other medical care typically provided to patients after they leave a hospital."

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/large-discrepancies-found-in-medicare-spending-on-post-hospital-care/2013/11/28/3d29d31e-57d9-11e3-835d-e7173847c7cc_story.html?wpisrc=nl_headlines

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