



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Dec. 20, 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 is Featured in USA Today Coverage of the MRSA Epidemic



"We have more data on how many cows are in each county than we do on how many MRSA cases there are," says Kevin Kavanagh, a physician who chairs Health Watch



USA, a patient advocacy group. "It's very hard to come up with (prevention strategies) if you don't have solid data."

(left hand photo: Gregory Moran via cdc.gov)

Three Major Points of the article are:

#1. The article supports surveillance (along with universal decolonization) as a viable protocol for control of MRSA. The article does not go into the concerns with the promotion of resistance using universal decolonization.

#2. The article stresses that we need more data for action and better reporting.

#3. The article also states too many hospitals and facilities are not doing anything about the epidemic. "Both strategies (surveillance and universal decolonization), along with better hand washing and other infection controls, have been shown to reduce infections significantly. Many hospitals and other health care facilities where MRSA is common, such as nursing homes, have been slow to adopt such tactics."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/12/16/mrsa-infection-community-schools-victims-doctors/3991833/>

Peter Eisler, Medical Reporter for USA Today, to Speak at HW USA January Meeting Over Adobe Connect.

Meeting time is Jan. 15, 2013 using Adobe Connect. If you wish to attend please contact Cathy Kavanagh at healthwatchusa@gmail.com Space is limited.



Central Line Bloodstream Infections are Still All Too Common

Health Watch USA Commentary: Much Work Still to Be Done to Prevent Central Line–Associated Bloodstream Infections. Published in The American Journal of Medical Quality.

Central Line Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSIs) are all too common and often fatal events. To estimate the number of preventable CLABSIs, the authors analyzed SIR (Standardized Infection Ratio) and the number of CLABSIs from Hospital Compare data. Several studies have suggested that an SIR of 0.35 may be achievable. If all institutions were able to perform at this level, then almost 50% of CLABSIs would be prevented.

Download Presubmission Copy: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Publications/PDF-Downloads/20131010c-PreventableCLABSI.pdf> (Free Access)

View Journal Edited Copy:

<http://ajm.sagepub.com/content/early/2013/12/13/1062860613513317.extract> (Not Free Access)

CMS Posts MRSA and C. Difficile Data on Hospital Compare

Results for Top Lexington Hospitals - When adjusted all were not statistically different from the National Benchmark. Total number of cases are reported. Reporting period is for 3 months from 1/1/2013 to 3/31/2013. For MRSA, only bloodstream infections and those affecting deep organs are recorded. Thus, the MRSA data captures only a fraction of the total infections.

<http://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/search.html>

	MRSA		C. Difficile	
	Cases	Patient Days	Cases	Admissions
St Joseph East	0	7004	4	5153
Baptist Health Lexington	0	26,366	19	22,505
University of Kentucky	6	52,935	43	52,382
St Joseph, Lexington	1	20,733	7	18,345

United Kingdom's Mail Online Takes on The Quality and Access Problems of Britain's National Healthcare System.

"Three damning reports last night laid bare the crisis in NHS hospitals, maternity units and GP surgeries."

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2522878/National-Health-SHAMBLES-Three-damning-reports-mothers-abandoned-labour-hospital-blunders-day-patients-lost-faith-GPs.html>

Data Shows Hospital Acquired Infections is Decreasing in California

<http://www.californiahealthline.org/articles/2013/12/5/hospital-acquired-infections-decreased-in-calif-hospitals-data-show>

Indiana Release Their First HAI Report

http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/2012_Indiana_Healthcare_Associated_Infections_Report.pdf

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Healthcare Quality:

Will Medicine Ever Become Safer? by George Lundberg

http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/814699_1

As Healthcare Market Worsens -- Hospital Jobs are Lost and Nurses Look Elsewhere.

What happened to the so called nursing shortage?

http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/market-worsens-hospital-jobs-nurses-look-elsewhere/2013-12-02?utm_medium=nl&utm_source=internal

Six States Consider Minimum Staffing Ratios to Solve the Shortage of Nurses in Hospitals.

FierceHealthCare <http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/there-another-way-solve-nursing-shortage/2013-12-03>

Anthem Accountable Care Organizations Are Improving Quality

Businesswire.com: "the first full year of Anthem's program, including a 35 percent increase in the number of mammograms performed and a 44 percent increase in the appropriate prescribing of antibiotics for bronchitis treatment."

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20131205006215/en/Anthem-Blue-Cross-Accountable-Care-Organizations-Major>

Almost Half of Hospitals Do Not Plan to Start Accountable Care Organizations

<http://pha.purdue.edu/news/survey>

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Healthcare Reform

Medicaid is Expanding Under the Affordable Care Act

<http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/blog/2013/12/medicaid-expansion-report.html#>

Vermont Planning for A State Wide Single Payer System

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20131026/NEWS/310269800/1052/RSS01>

Nearly One in Four Americans Site Cost of Healthcare as the Most Urgent Problem

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/165965/americans-say-cost-top-health-problem.aspx>

Under the ACA United Healthcare is Cutting Doctors in Connecticut

<http://courantblogs.com/ct-insurance/unitedhealthcare-still-intends-to-drop-doctors-in-parts-of-connecticut/>

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Healthcare Overutilization

Are Too Many Children Taking Antipsychotic Drugs?

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/2013/12/are-too-many-kids-taking-antipsychotic-drugs/index.htm>

Dr. Leana Wen Encourages Patients To Ask Their Doctor About Financial Conflicts of Interests

" A 2007 in The New England Journal of Medicine found that the vast majority of doctors have some kind of relationship with with a pharmaceutical or medical-device company. "

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2013/12/14/250714833/before-the-prescription-ask-about-your-doctors-finances>

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