



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Jan 3, 2014

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

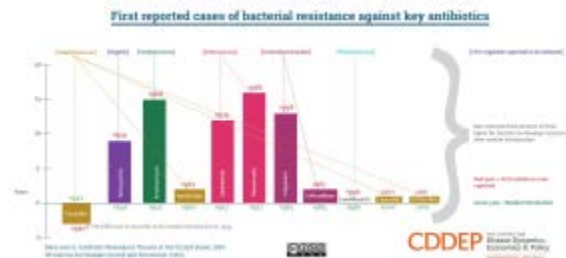
Infectious Disease

How Long Does It Take To Develop Bacterial Resistance

The CDDEP has introduced a Graphic which depicts the length of time between antibiotic introduction and the first reported case of bacterial resistance.

Click on Picture to Enlarge.

http://cddep.org/tools/first_reported_cases_bacteria_resistance_against_key_antibiotics



Antibacterial Soap Comes Under Fire -- FDA Wants Answers

-- FDA wants manufacturers to show that antibacterial soaps are safe for long term use and more effective than regular soaps.

Medpage: <http://www.medpagetoday.com/Washington-Watch/FDAGeneral/43453>

Wall Street Journal:

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304403804579262131820434674>

Improved Hand Hygiene is Needed to Control C. Diff.

Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology reported that Clostridium difficile (C. diff) spores resided on nearly 25% of healthcare workers' hands following treatment of patients infected with C. diff. It is recommended to use soap and water as opposed to alcohol rubs for C. diff. patients. Alcohol does not reliably kill C. diff spores.

http://www.sciencecodex.com/infectious_diarrhea_germs_stick_to_healthcare_worker_hands-125357

New York Health Dept Finds Healthcare Acquired Infections are Falling

-- Central-Line Bloodstream Infections have fallen 53%.

-- Surgical Site Infections have fallen 16%.

<http://blogs.ipro.org/abouthealthtransparency/2013/12/11/departement-of-health-report-finds-new-york-hospitals-continue-to-reduce-rates-of-infections>

Protecting Americans From Infections Disease Outbreaks

(Trust for Americans Health & Robert Wood Johnson)

-- Most states scored 50% or below on their score card for responding to infectious disease.

<http://www.healthyamericans.org/assets/files/TFAH2013OutbreaksRpt07.pdf>

Probiotics May Help Prevent C. Difficile Infections

Probiotics as contained in yogurt may help to prevent C. Difficile Infections.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/harmful-bacterial-infection-grows-more-common-in-clinics-and-doctors-offices/2013/12/13/e61570ac-26d6-11e3-b75d-5b7f66349852_story.html

Superbugs May Spread Via Air Currents Around the Hospital

<http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/news/2012/10/superbugs-ride-air-currents-around-hospital-units.aspx#!>

Healthcare Reform

Massachusetts Report: Hospital Consolidation and Mergers Would Drive Up Costs

FierceHealthFinance: <http://www.fiercehealthfinance.com/story/report-mass-hospital-consolidation-would-drive-costs-consumers/2013-12-20>

Drugs and Devices

Major Drug Company Will Stop Physician Drug Promotion Payments

New York Times. "The British drug maker GlaxoSmithKline will no longer pay doctors to promote its products and will stop tying compensation of sales representatives to the number of prescriptions doctors write..."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/17/business/glaxo-says-it-will-stop-paying-doctors-to-promote-drugs.html>

Unreported Robot Surgery Injuries Open Questions for FDA

Bloomberg Businessweek: "There is generally at least a 10-year wait once a device is on the market to have any kind of sense whether it is safe or effective, and by then the device may have changed five times," Zuckerman said in a telephone interview. "

<http://mobile.businessweek.com/news/2013-12-30/unreported-robot-surgery-injuries-open-questions-for-fda>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-wp-blm-news-bc-robotic30-20131230,0,1244020.story>

Medicare Names Worst and Best Hospitals for Knee & Hip Replacement

Baptist Health Louisville, Named One of the Best.

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2013/December/17/hip-and-knee-surgery-chart.aspx>

FDA Upgrades Medical Device Database Which Now Provides Information on Recalled Devices.

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfRES/res.cfm>

Healthcare Quality

Appropriate Utilization of Procedures and Interventions.

American Hospital Association's top 5 list of procedures "that should be reviewed and discussed by a patient and physician prior to proceeding"

These include appropriate:

1. Blood Management.
2. Antimicrobial Stewardship.
3. Reduce inpatient admissions for low back pain, asthma, uncomplicated pneumonia.
4. Use of elective percutaneous coronary intervention.
5. Use of ICU for imminently terminal illness.

<http://www.aha.org/advocacy-issues/appropuse/index.shtml>

Propublica Posts Waiting Times for Emergency Rooms

<http://projects.propublica.org/emergency/state/KY>



Health Watch USA Meeting on January 15, 2013 at 5:00 pm ET.

Speaker: Reporter Peter Eisler from USA Today will present on his article on MRSA over Adobe Connect. If you wish to log in with your computer or attend the meeting please send an email to healthwatchusa@gmail.com



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

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