



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Feb. 1, 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

Survivor of Deadly MRSA Strikes Southern Kentucky Shares Story

Channel 18 News <http://www.lex18.com/news/deadly-mrsa-strikes-southern-kentucky/>



View the USA Today article which covered these dangerous MRSA infections in Kentucky: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/12/16/mrsa-infection-community-schools-victims-doctors/3991833/>

Infection Control Practices Not Adequately Implemented In Many ICUs

APIC: "In adhering to policies, many hospital ICUs fell short, according to the survey. Adherence to prevention policies ranged from 37 to 71 percent for CLABSI, 45 to 55 percent for VAP, and 6 to 27 percent for CAUTI."

<http://www.apic.org/For-Media/News-Releases/Article?id=571bf06c-a94d-4693-8dd9-04439e1f6c95>

NIH Sounds Alarm on Research Integrity

Medscape - Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak, DDS, PhD.: "the checks and balances that once ensured scientific fidelity have been hobbled," One Report Suggests "as many as two-thirds of studies related to preclinical animal trials were not able to be reproduced,"

http://www.medpagetoday.com/PublicHealthPolicy/ClinicalTrials/43995?isalert=1&uun=g536787d638R5658860u&utm_source=breaking-news&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=breaking-news&xid=NL_breakingnews_2014-01-27

Full Disclosure: The Search for Medical Error Transparency - Trailer

This video features Dr. Steve Kraman from the Lexington KY Veterans Hospital. The full length movie was partially shot during the 2013 Health Watch USA conference and features interviews from several of the presenters. Use the link below to view the trailer.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GR-BsE5syGw>

Carefusion Pays a 50 Million Dollar Settlement With The Dept of Justice for an Alleged 11 Million Dollar Kickback.

US DOJ: "The settlement resolves allegations that, under agreements entered into in 2008 by CareFusion's predecessor, CareFusion paid \$11.6 million in kickbacks to Dr. Charles Denham while Denham served as the co-chair of the Safe Practices Committee at the National Quality Forum, a non-profit organization that reviews, endorses and recommends standardized health care performance measures and practices. "

- Dept. Of Justice News Release: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2014/January/14-civ-021.html>
- National Quality Forum News Releases: http://www.qualityforum.org/News_And_Resources/Press_Releases/2014/NQF_Statement_on_Department_of_Justice_Settlement.aspx
- Propublica's Article: http://www.propublica.org/article/hidden-financial-ties-rattle-top-health-quality-group?utm_source=et&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter

States May Be Able to Recoup Medicaid Expenditures From Estates After Death.

Fox News: "Though many may not realize it, states are allowed to recover the cost of health care after someone's death by seizing their assets. It applies to Medicaid recipients who are between the ages of 55 and 64. The law has been in place since 1993, when Congress realized states were going broke over rising Medicaid expenses."

- Fox News: <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/01/23/obamacare-death-debt-states-can-seize-assets-to-recoup-medicaid-costs/>
- Washington Post - "Little-known aspect of Medicaid now causing people to avoid coverage:" http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/little-known-aspect-of-medicaid-now-causing-people-to-avoid-coverage/2014/01/23/deda52e2-794e-11e3-8963-b4b654bcc9b2_story.html

Wisconsin Hospital Association Reduction Program Reduces Admissions by 22% and Saved 34 Million Dollars.

"This work has eliminated readmissions for an estimated 3,556 patients and reduced health care spending by \$34,137,600."

<http://www.wha.org/Data/Sites/1/quality/WHA2013QualityReport.pdf> (Page 11)

Patient's Cost Increase; Income Soars for Specialists

New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/19/health/patients-costs-skyrocket-specialists-incomes-soar.html>

Hospital Consolidation Picks Up Pace:

New England Journal of Medicine. " Although new evidence links multimarket hospital systems to higher prices, more research is needed to confirm this result." "However, as the Georgia case (and others, such as FTC v. Evanston Northwestern Healthcare) illustrate, unwinding deals is exceedingly difficult in practice; in antitrust vernacular, these efforts are labeled "unscrambling the eggs." <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1313948?query=TOC>

Hospital Charge to Cost Ratios

"With growing national attention to hospital pricing practices, new data released by the nation's largest nurses organization today showed that hospital charges continue to skyrocket with some U.S. hospitals charging more than ten times their cost – nearly \$1,200 for every \$100 of their total costs.

Kentucky has a hospital (Paul B Hall) reported to have the second highest charge to cost ratio in the nation.

<http://www.nationalnursesunited.org/press/entry/new-data-some-hospitals-set-charges-at-10-times-their-costs/>

Healthcare Spending in High Income Countries

From 1980 to 2011 the United States has been the top spender per capita on healthcare. And the gap is widening.

NEJM Graphic: <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1310228?query=TOC>

Asking Price Does Affect Medicare Payments

"How much each hospital is paid under the (CMS) outlier payment system is heavily influenced not by a hospital's costs of caring for that patient, but by the "sticker price," or what it chooses to charge."

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

Health Watch USA Next Meeting at 4:00 PM ET on Feb. 19th, 2014.

This month's speaker will be Dr. Steven Tower. Dr. Tower was one of the first in the USA to sound the alarm regarding metal-on-metal hip implants and chromium toxicity that can occur from these devices. He has become a nationally known patient safety advocate and a leading expert on hip prosthesis complications. A short business meeting will follow his presentation.



To attend the meeting over Adobe Connect, Contact Health Watch USA at healthwatchusa@gmail.com

The picture on to the above right shows Dr. Tower teaching medical students in Anchorage, AK.

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