



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

The Forgotten Role of Alcohol

"Perceived efficacy of chlorhexidine is often in fact based on evidence for the efficacy of the chlorhexidine-alcohol combination. The role of alcohol has frequently been overlooked in evidence assessments. This has broader implications for knowledge translation as well as potential implications for patient safety." "For blood cultures and surgery, we found no evidence supporting chlorhexidine alone."

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0044277>



Low Levels of Chlorhexidine and Mupirocin May Increase the Numbers of MRSA Carriers.

"Combined low-level mupirocin and genotypic chlorhexidine resistance significantly increases the risk of persistent MRSA carriage after decolonization therapy." "...carriage of (MRSA with) combined low-level mupirocin and genotypic chlorhexidine resistance before decolonization independently predicted persistent MRSA carriage "

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21628482>

More on Charles Denham, Chlorhexidine and CareFusion

<http://community.the-hospitalist.org/2014/01/30/patient-safety-first-scandal-the-sad-case-of-chuck-denham-carefusion-and-the-nqf/>

<http://hcrenewal.blogspot.com/2014/01/the-carefusion-denham-nqf-case-plot.html>

The National Quality Forum's Conflict of Interest Policies Questioned

-- Senator cites serious concerns regarding the Conflict-of-Interest policies of the NQF

<http://www.propublica.org/article/senator-cites-serious-concerns-demands-national-quality-forum-records>

-- Payments to CEO Raise New Conflicts at Top Health Quality Group

<http://www.propublica.org/article/payments-to-ceo-raise-new-conflicts-at-top-health-quality-group>

Sticker Shock From Insurance Deductibles

CBS: Lower price plans on the exchanges have large deductibles which is blocking enrollment of lower income individuals.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/obamacare-deductibles-deliver-hefty-sticker-shock/>

Courier Journal: Hospital bills a big problem as deductibles, out-of-pocket costs grow

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20140216/BUSINESS/302160023>

More Doctors are Shifting From Hospital Employment

"Last year, 64 percent of job offers filled through Merritt Hawkins, one of the nation's leading physician placement firms, involved hospital employment, compared with only 11 percent in 2004. The firm anticipates a rise to 75 percent in the next two years. Today, about 60 percent of family doctors and pediatricians, 50 percent of surgeons and 25 percent of surgical subspecialists are employees rather than independent."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/14/us/salaried-doctors-may-not-lead-to-cheaper-health-care.html>

Accountable Care Organizations Run By Doctors Could Cause Some Hospitals to Go Out of Business

<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/doc-led-acos-could-hurt-hospitals-bottom-line/2014-02-18>

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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