



# Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> Newsletter

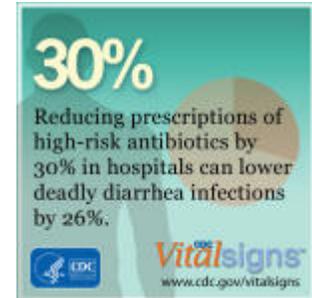
[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Mar. 6, 2014

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

## CDC Starts Campaign to Prevent C. Difficile

Reduction in antibiotic usage can cut C. Difficile rates by almost 30%.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/antibiotic-prescribing-practices/>



## Representative Tom Burch Files Public Reporting Bill on Healthcare Acquired Infections.

"Currently, the state requires hospitals only to report outbreaks and has no standard definition of what that means. Hospital officials said they do report what they believe are outbreaks — beyond the normal number of cases — and no MRSA outbreaks in hospitals were reported to the state last year." View Bill

<http://blogs.courier-journal.com/healthbytes/2014/02/27/bill-would-require-reporting-of-superbug-infections/>



## Kansas City Star: Facility Fees Day 2: 'Facility fees' add billions to medical bills

"It doesn't make sense," said Kevin Kavanagh, a retired surgeon and chairman of the patient advocacy group Health Watch USA. Either hospitals are making extra money by charging facility fees, or they're operating far less efficiently than a doctor's office can, Kavanagh said. In either case, facility fees "are extremely expensive to the health care system." The fees may be one of the primary factors driving physicians out of private practice and into hospital employment, Kavanagh said. "You can't compete against an entity paid almost twice as much as you are."

Read more at: Bavley A. Day 2: 'Facility fees' add billions to medical bills. Kansas City Star. Feb. 17, 2014.  
<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/12/29/4719471/facility-fees-add-billions-to.html>

**To learn more about HW USA's policy and activity regarding Facility Fees go to:**

[http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/HWUSA-Initiatives\\_FacilityFees.htm](http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/HWUSA-Initiatives_FacilityFees.htm)

## Dr. Steve Tower Presents Dangers of Metal-on-Metal Implants

Metal-on-Metal Implants Dr. Steve Tower, an Orthopedist from Alaska who was one of the first to report on cobalt poisoning and complications on metal-on-metal implants in the United States, presented to Health Watch USA on Feb 19, 2014 over Adobe connect. The presentation which gave a thorough review of the risk of these complications along with his personnel experience can be viewed at: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Meeting/20140219-Steve-Tower-MoM-Implants/20140219-TowerSteve.htm>



## Progress In Health Care Quality Is Still 'Excruciatingly Slow' Says Harvard Expert

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/leahbinder/2014/02/20/progress-in-health-care-is-still-excruciatingly-slow-says-harvard-expert/>

## "Online Ratings Becoming a Fact of Life"

"Online ratings of physicians haven't caught on as much as ratings of books, movies and plumbers, but a majority of consumers know they exist and one in four consulted them when picking a primary care doctor in 2012, new research shows." USA Today, Feb. 19, 2014.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/02/18/online-doctor-ratings/5582257/>

## One Third of Skilled Nursing Home Patients Harmed in Treatment

"Doctors who reviewed the patients' records determined that 59 percent of the errors and injuries were preventable."

<http://www.propublica.org/article/one-third-of-skilled-nursing-patients-harmed-in-treatment>

## As Transparency Deadline for The Pharm Industry's Payment To Doctors Approaches, Payments -- Plummet.

<http://www.propublica.org/article/as-full-disclosure-nears-doctors-pay-for-drug-talks-plummets>

## Nationwide reduction of health care-associated methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infections in Veterans Affairs long-term care facilities

Using a bundle of surveillance, surveillance, hand hygiene, and culture change "the overall rate of MRSA health care–associated infections decreased by 36%, from 0.25 to 0.16/1,000 resident-days (P < .0001, Poisson regression for trend)." [http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(13\)00972-3/abstract](http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(13)00972-3/abstract)

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