



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Apr. 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

Video Slide Presentation on Healthcare Associated Infections and MRSA

Should we use surveillance to help decrease the epidemic of MRSA infections ?

[Download PDF of PowerPoint Slides](#)

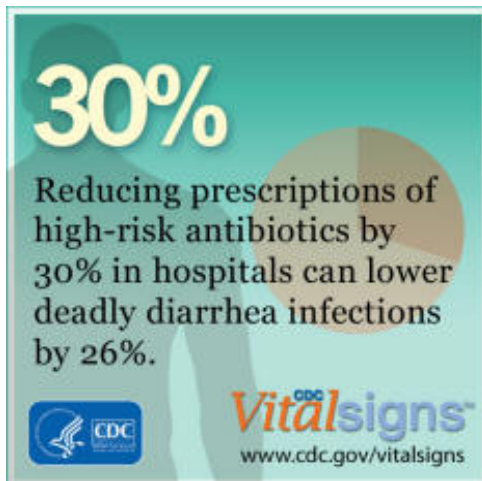
<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Meeting/20140328-BGHC-Kavanagh-HAI-MRSA/20140328-BGHC.htm>



Health Watch USA now has a YouTube Channel

The below videos are available at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZj9Idd3syBsm_bAlfByzg

- Metal-On-Metal Implants by Dr. Steven Tower;
- Medical Overuse by Rosemary Gibson;
- Full Disclosure of Adverse Events by Dr. Steven Kraman;
- MRSA Surveillance and Healthcare Associated Conditions by Dr. Kevin Kavanagh



CDC Releases Data on Healthcare Acquired Infections

One in every 25 patients has a healthcare associated infection. A 30% reduction in high-risk antibiotic usage can lower C. Difficile Infections by 26%. HAI Website <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/>

Most common germs causing healthcare-associated infections are:

- o C. difficile (12 percent)
- o Staphylococcus aureus (11 percent including MRSA)
- o Klebsiella (10 percent)
- o E. coli (9 percent)
- o Enterococcus (9 percent)
- o Pseudomonas (7 percent)

- [Download CDC Key Point Sheet](#)
- CDC Audio Briefing and Transcript on Healthcare Associated Infections <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/t0326-hospital-patients.html>
- CDC Video on Healthcare Associated Infections: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FfMCv8FUXI&feature=youtu.be>

CMS's Policy on Not Paying For Healthcare Acquired Conditions

Health Affairs: "Payment reductions were negligible (0.001 percent, or \$0.1 million—equivalent to \$1.1 million nationwide) and are unlikely to encourage providers to improve quality. Options to strengthen the incentives include further payment modifications for hospital-acquired conditions or expanding the hospital-acquired condition policy to exclude payment for consequences, additional procedures, and readmissions. "

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/28/5/1485.long>

Medicare Physician Billing Data To Be Released To The Public

Medicare plans "to provide the public unprecedented access to information about the number and type of health care services that individual physicians and certain other health care professionals delivered in 2012, and the amount Medicare paid them for those services, beginning not earlier than April 9."

<http://blog.cms.gov/2014/04/02/next-steps-in-medicare-data-transparency/>

Renewed Effort Needed to Fight Drug-Resistant Bacteria:

A "multisectoral approach" to gain ground drug-resistant bacteria, is being advocated by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

The Problem Includes: "Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus is pervasive, found in approximately 50% of isolates in acute care hospitals in the United States.³ New strains of CRE rapidly spread in the United States from 1 to 44 states just in the last decade."

Approaches Include: "In summary, biomedical innovation combined with improved surveillance, prevention efforts, rapid diagnosis, market incentives to drive technology development, and curtailed misuse can meet the continual threat of antimicrobial resistance. Through this multisectoral approach, "our wits" will hopefully perpetually match "their genes.""

<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1851734>

Health Watch USA Comments on the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services' 2020 Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Goals.

Included in the comments is HW USA's highest priority infectious disease initiative, the setting of goals for Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE).

[View Comment](#)

England's Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, says hospitals will be obliged to report medical errors

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/jeremy-hunt-says-hospitals-will-be-obliged-to-report-medical-errors-9215360.html>

Leaders of U.S. Academic Medical Centers are Also Board Members of Healthcare Corporate Boards

Health Care Renewal Blog: The most important findings were:

- 19/47 companies (40%) had at least one board member who was a leader of an academic medical center (AMC)
- 16/17 US based companies had at least one board member who was also a leader of a US AMC

- pharmaceutical company board members included 2 university presidents, 6 deans of medicine, 6 hospital or health system executives, 7 clinical department chairs or center directors

- 28 board members were also members of Boards of Trustees or Directors of US hospitals, medical schools, or their parent universities.

From: <http://hcrenewal.blogspot.com/2014/04/finally-article-in-large-circulation.html>

JAMA Research Letter: <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1853147>

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