



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Apr. 20, 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

OIG Dept of Health and Human Services Studies the Discrepancy Between Hospital Outpatient and Free Standing Surgical Center Facility Fees.

Medicare could save billions if CMS reduces hospital outpatient department payments rates for ambulatory surgical center-approved procedures to ambulatory surgical center payment rates. " In addition, Medicare could generate savings of as much as \$15 billion for CYs 2012 through 2017 if CMS reduces outpatient department payment rates for ASC-approved procedures to ASC payment levels for procedures performed on beneficiaries with low-risk and no-risk clinical needs"



For more information go to: <http://oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region5/51200020.pdf>

New Insurance Premium Survey by Morgan Stanley Indicates Rates Are Increasing

A survey of 148 brokers found small group and individual premiums to increase 11% to 12%. "Our April AlphaWise survey of 148 brokers points to significant acceleration in small group & individual rate increases in excess of 1,100bps and 1,200bps, respectively, in 2014. We expect the increases are largely due to changes under the ACA."

Summary of OIG Reports on Adverse Events.

<http://oig.hhs.gov/newsroom/spotlight/2012/adverse.asp>

"During a 1-month period, OIG found that 13.5 percent (of Medicare Patients) experienced adverse events and that for 1.5 percent of beneficiaries, these adverse events contributed to their deaths. An additional 13.5 percent of beneficiaries in the sample experienced temporary harm as a result of their medical care, bringing the total percentage of beneficiaries experiencing instances of care-related harm to 27 percent. Nearly half (44 percent) of these adverse or temporary harm events were preventable." OIG determined that the costs to Medicare associated with adverse and temporary harm events totaled an estimated \$324 million for 1 month alone. This would equate to an estimated \$4.4 billion per year." <http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-09-00090.pdf>

"Yet, OIG found that hospital staff did not report 86 percent of events to incident reporting systems." "Just 12 percent of the temporary harm or adverse events that occurred in hospitals met State requirements for reporting; in other words, only 35 of the events in the sample were required to be reported to the State reporting systems. Hospitals actually reported just three of these events, all in Pennsylvania. Many of the events not reported as required involved serious harm, including six patient deaths." <http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-09-00091.pdf>

USA Today Report on Drug Abuse in the Medical Community

"America's prescription drug epidemic reaches deep into the medical community. Across the country,

more than 100,000 doctors, nurses, technicians and other health professionals struggle with abuse or addiction, mostly involving narcotics such as oxycodone and fentanyl. "

www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/04/15/doctors-addicted-drugs-health-care-diversion/7588401/

Misdiagnosis, affects up to 12 million Americans a Year (1 in 20 patients).

British Medical Journal of Safety and Quality: "Combining estimates from the three studies yielded a rate of outpatient diagnostic errors of 5.08%, or approximately 12 million US adults every year. Based upon previous work, we estimate that about half of these errors could potentially be harmful. "

<http://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/2014/04/04/bmjqs-2013-002627.abstract>

<http://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/misdiagnosed-docs-mistakes-affect-12-million-year-n82256>

Experienced Nurses are the Key to Shorter Length of Stay

American Economic Association: "Proxying nurses' general human capital by education and their unit-specific human capital by experience on the nursing unit, we find that greater amounts of both types of human capital significantly improve patient outcomes. Disruptions to team functioning attributable to the departure of experienced nurses, the absorption of new hires, and the inclusion of temporary contract nurses are associated with significant decreases in productivity beyond those attributable to changes in nurses' skill and experience."

<http://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/app.6.2.231>

Five Things You Need to Know About Morcellation and Hysterectomy.

FDA: "It is estimated that 1 in 350 women undergoing hysterectomy or myomectomy for the treatment of fibroids is found to have an unsuspected uterine sarcoma, a type of uterine cancer that includes leiomyosarcoma. If laparoscopic power morcellation is performed in women with unsuspected uterine sarcoma, there is a risk that the procedure will spread the cancerous tissue within the abdomen and pelvis, significantly worsening the patient's likelihood of long-term survival. For this reason, and because there is no reliable method for predicting whether a woman with fibroids may have a uterine sarcoma, the FDA discourages the use of laparoscopic power morcellation during hysterectomy or myomectomy for uterine fibroids."

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm393809.htm>

Wall Street Journal: <http://blogs.wsj.com/five-things/2014/04/11/to-know-about-morcellation/?mod=e2tw>

Price Transparency For Medical Services To Include Insurance Company's Also.

http://www.fiercehealthpayer.com/story/price-transparency-should-start-insurers/2014-04-17?utm_medium=nl&utm_source=internal

Up Coming Events:

May 13, 2014: Dr. Arjun Srinivasan , MD (CAPT, USPHS), the Associate Director for Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Programs in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is scheduled to be on the Jack Pattie radio show with Dr. Kevin Kavanagh on May 13, 2014 at 9:00 am to 10:00 am EDT. The show may be listened to live by going to the <http://www.wvlkam.com/> and clicking on the red "LISTEN LIVE" button in the upper right-hand corner of the page.



May 21, 2014: Dr. Thomas Valuck, MD will present at the Health Watch USA meeting over Adobe Connect on Integrated Healthcare Systems and methods of payment. Thomas Valuck, has served as Senior Advisor and Medical Officer at CMS, where he advised senior agency and Department of Health and Human Services leadership regarding Medicare payment and quality of care, particularly value-based purchasing. He also has served as Senior Vice President for Strategic Partnerships at the National Quality Forum. Since October 2013, he has joined Discern Health where he is bringing his experience to serve clients across the private and public sector to improve health and healthcare.

If you wish to attend this event, send an email to healthwatchusa@gmail.com

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