



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org May 10, 2014

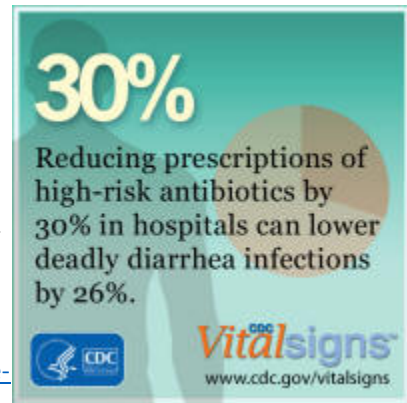
Member of the National Quality Forum and a designated "Community Leader" for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

Overuse of antibiotics aids attacks of deadly bacteria - OpEd Lexington Herald Leader

"It is counterintuitive and tears at a basic tenet which many of us have lived by: antibiotics, that security blanket we all have enjoyed, can actually cause infections

Thus, taking an antibiotic for every sore throat and cold causes a grave risk of creating antibiotic resistant bacteria, and may even cause more harm than good in the patient taking the medication. Both patients and doctors need to conserve antibiotic usage and only use them when absolutely necessary."

<http://www.kentucky.com/2014/05/09/3234330/dr-kevin-kavanagh-overuse-of-antibiotics.html>



Washington Post: Antibiotic-resistant genes are widespread in nature

"The findings, published Thursday in the journal Current Biology, revealed how widespread antibiotic-resistant genes are in nature. They also raised questions about how the prevalence of resistant genes might relate to a major health problem: bacterial infections in humans that increasingly don't respond to antibiotics."

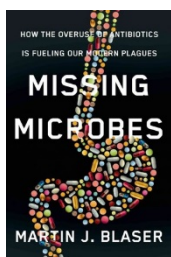
http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/antibiotic-resistant-genes-are-widespread-in-nature-study-finds/2014/05/08/ec608662-d53c-11e3-aae8-c2d44bd79778_story.html

Pitfalls in evidence assessment: the case of chlorhexidine and alcohol in skin antiseptics (Leading Article).

"First, Caregivers following such recommendations may incorrectly use chlorhexidine on its own. This may expose patients to an increased risk of infection, either due to insufficient microbial killing at the skin site or because chlorhexidine—which is a relatively weak antiseptic— may become contaminated with microorganisms. Second, there is now increasing concern about the possible emergence of bacterial clones with acquired 'resistance' (better termed 'reduced susceptibility') to chlorhexidine among important nosocomial pathogens."

Free Access: J. Antimicrob. Chemother. (2014) Advance Access.

<http://jac.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2014/04/28/jac.dku121.abstract>



Missing Microbes: How the Overuse of Antibiotics Is Fueling Our Modern Plagues.

The book centers not only on the epidemic of resistant organisms but also on how antibiotic overuse may have an adverse effect on the epidemics of obesity, asthma, diabetes, heartburn and esophageal cancer.

<http://www.npr.org/2014/04/14/302899093/modern-medicine-may-not-be-doing-your-microbiome-any-favors>

Fatal Superbugs: WHO States Antibiotics Losing Effectiveness

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/05/140501-superbugs-antibiotics-resistance-disease-medicine/>

There are no quick fixes to hospital-acquired infections

<http://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2014/04/quick-fixes-hospitalacquired-infections.html>

State of North Carolina Releases Their Report on Healthcare Associated Infections

<http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/hai/figures.html>

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Hospitals Boost Patient Safety, But More Work Is Needed

"Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, chairman of the consumer advocate group Health Watch USA, said that while good, the reduction in patient safety problems "is a small change" relative to the frequency that patients are still being hurt."

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2014/May/07/Hospitals-Boost-Patient-Safety-But-Still-Have-A-Way-To-Go.aspx>

Misdiagnosis is Common, About 1 in 20 Patients

"Our population-based estimate suggests that diagnostic errors affect at least 1 in 20 US adults. This foundational evidence should encourage policymakers, healthcare organisations and researchers to start measuring and reducing diagnostic errors. "

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

Why hospitals turn a blind eye to misbehaving docs

<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/why-hospitals-turn-blind-eye-misbehaving-docs/2014-04-28>

State of Washington Develops a Bundle Warranty for Hips and Knees.

http://www.breecollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/bree_warranty_tkr_thr.pdf

Dr. Steven Tower: The Hip Generation: Recalls, redoes agony for some with new joints

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/investigates/The-Hip-Generation-257552271.html>

FDA Wants Stricter Rules for Pelvic Mesh Implants

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/fda-wants-stricter-safety-rules-for-pelvic-mesh/2014/04/29/c91aebc0-cfb5-11e3-b812-0c92213941f4_story.html

Headaches and Neuroimaging High Utilization and Costs Despite Guidelines

"Given the comparable yield in patients without headaches, multiple guidelines have recommended against routine headache neuroimaging, and efforts to improve the efficiency of health care utilization, such as the Choosing Wisely campaign (ABIM [American Board of Internal Medicine] Foundation;

<http://www.choosingwisely.org>), have identified these tests as a target."

<http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1835347>

New CMS Rules Strengthen Value Based Purchasing and Incentives for Healthcare Acquired Conditions

"Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program. The hospital value-based purchasing (VBP) program, which was established by the Affordable Care Act, adjusts payments to hospitals under the IPPS based on the quality of care they deliver to patients. For FY 2015, as directed by the law, CMS is increasing the applicable percent reduction, the portion of Medicare payments available to fund the value-based incentive payments under the program, to 1.5 percent of the base operating DRG payment amounts to all participating hospitals. CMS estimates that the total amount available for value-based incentive payments in FY 2015 will be approximately \$1.4 billion, and will update this estimate in the FY 2015 IPPS/LTCH final rule."

"Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program. The maximum reduction in payments under the Hospital Readmissions Reduction program will increase from 2 to 3 percent as required by law. For FY 2015, CMS proposes to assess hospitals' readmissions penalties using five readmissions measures endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF). Already, CMS estimates that hospital readmissions in Medicare declined by a total of 150,000 from January 2012 through December 2013."

"Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program. CMS proposes to implement the Affordable Care Act's Hospital Acquired Condition (HAC) Reduction Program. Beginning in FY 2015, hospitals scoring in the top quartile for the rate of HACs (i.e. those with the poorest performance) will have their Medicare inpatient payments reduced by one percent. This new program builds on the progress in this area achieved through the existing HAC program, which is currently saving approximately \$25 million annually by reducing Medicare payments when certain conditions that are reasonably preventable are acquired in the hospital."

View CMS Press Release: <http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Press-releases/2014-Press-releases-items/2014-04-30.html>

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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, please send an email to healthwatchusa@gmail.com

June 18, 2014: Dr. Hooman Noorchashm, & Dr. Amy Reed on morcellation and laparoscopic hysterectomy.

Dr. Noorchashm's wife, Amy Reed, is a 40-year-old mother of six who is an anesthesiologist at Beth Israel. After suffering from pelvic pain for months, Dr. Reed in October sought treatment at Brigham and Women's Hospital, the same facility where her husband works. The diagnosis was fibroids—which are almost always benign growths—and she had a routine hysterectomy that included morcellation to avoid a large incision.

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





July 8, 2014: Leah Binder, CEO of The Leapfrog Group will be on the Jack Pattie Show to discuss value based purchasing and their hospital ranking system.

http://www.leapfroggroup.org/media/file/LeahBIO_Jan2010.pdf

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.

Nov. 7, 2014: Health Watch USA's Annual Health Policy Conference, Lexington, KY. Continuing Education Credits are planned for physicians, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists and attorneys.

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