



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

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) May 20, 2014

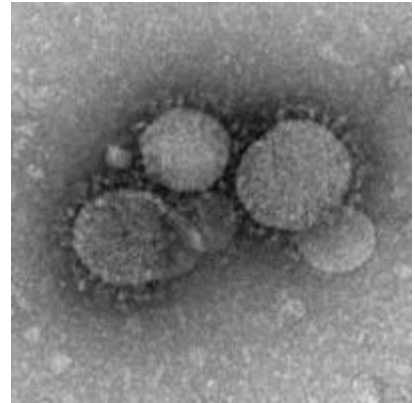
Member of the National Quality Forum and a designated "Community Leader" for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services



## CDC & HW USA Webcast on MERS, Antibiotic Utilization and Drug Resistant Organisms

Dr. Arjun Srinivasan, Associate Director for Healthcare Associated Infection Prevention Programs, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and

Promotion and Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, Board Chairman, Health Watch USA, present on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Multidrug Resistant Bacteria and Antibiotic Overutilization.



Listen to Audio Webcast of Presentation:

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Meeting/20140513-Arjun-Srinivasan/20140513-Srinivasan-Kavanagh.htm>



## The use of surveillance and preventative measures for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus infections in surgical patients

"Two recommendations are emerging for the control of MRSA. The first is to screen for and treat carriers, the second is universally treat everyone and run the theoretical risk of worsening bacterial resistance and changing the microbiome of both the patient and the facility. The decade long policy followed in some, and hopefully few, facilities of not doing either of these interventions appears to no longer be an option."

The use of surveillance and preventative measures for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus infections in surgical patients. Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control 2014, 3:18 doi:10.1186/2047-2994-3-18 Published: 14 May 2014

Free Access, Download From Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control:

<http://www.aricjournal.com/content/3/1/18>

## Health Watch USA joins with APIC and Other Healthcare and Advocacy Organizations for Support of Funding of the National Healthcare Safety Network.

Read Joint Support Letter to Congress: [Letter #1](#) [Letter #2](#)

## The US and EU Progress in Fight Against Antimicrobial Resistance

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2014pres/05/20140513a.html>

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## **Vertical Integration: Hospital Ownership Of Physician Practices Is Associated With Higher Prices And Spending**

"We found that an increase in the market share of hospitals with the tightest vertically integrated relationship with physicians—ownership of physician practices—was associated with higher hospital prices and spending. We found that an increase in contractual integration reduced the frequency of hospital admissions, but this effect was relatively small. Taken together, our results provide a mixed, although somewhat negative, picture of vertical integration from the perspective of the privately insured.

" <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/33/5/756.abstract>

## **CNA, Advocates Protest Kaiser Rate Hikes Amid \$21.7B Reserve Fund**

<http://www.californiahealthline.org/articles/2014/5/8/cna-advocates-protest-kaiser-rate-hikes-amid-21b-reserve-fund>

## **Are Federal Doctors Going To Be Shielded From Reporting Malpractice to Physician Data Bank?**

"The HHS' Office of Inspector General concluded several years ago that hundreds of federal malpractice claims appeared to have been omitted (PDF) from the databank already."

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20140519/NEWS/305199963>

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## **Medtronic's Infuse (Bone Morphogenetic Protein) Moves From Operating Room to Courtroom**

"A study published in April in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery found that use of BMP-2 in the neck continued through 2010 despite a 2008 FDA warning against using it in the cervical spine following reports of life-threatening swelling."

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/Orthopedics/Orthopedics/45827>

## **Consumer Union Release C-Section Rates**

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/2014/05/what-hospitals-do-not-want-you-to-know-about-c-sections/index.htm>      And      <http://www.cesareanrates.com/about/>

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## **Upcoming Events:**



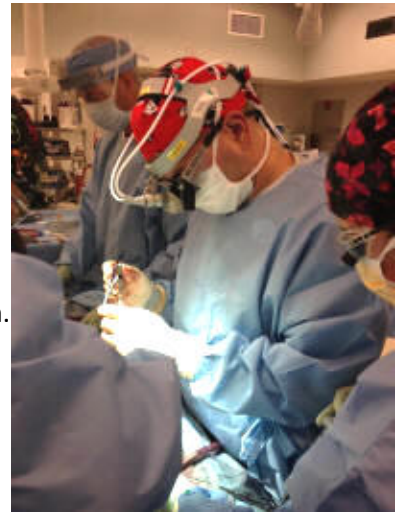
May 21, 2014: Dr. Thomas Valuck, MD will present at the Health Watch USA meeting over Adobe Connect on Integrated Healthcare Systems and methods of payment. Thomas Valuck, has served as Senior Advisor and Medical Officer at CMS, where he advised senior agency and Department of Health and Human Services 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

**Aug 20, 2014:** Alicia Budd (CMS/CCSA) will discuss the new regulations on value purchasing and HACs for the 2014 IPPS. In other words, what are the current financial incentives that Medicare is using to promote quality in our hospitals.

**Nov. 7, 2014:** Health Watch USA's Annual Health Policy Conference, Lexington, KY. Continuing Education Credits for physicians, nurses, social workers and physical therapists will be offered.

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