



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org July 1st, 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



Dr. Hooman Noorchashm and Dr. Amy Reed on the dangers of Uterine Morcellation - June 25, 2014: 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. She had an unknown cancer which the procedure spread throughout her abdominal cavity. "Now she also has stage 4 cancer, with an 85% chance of death within five years." USA Today Story:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/02/18/hysterectomy-laparoscopic-morcellation-amy-reed/5347093/>

(Picture on the right shows a collage of patient who developed advanced stage cancer from uterine morcellation. Those with a ribbon have died.)



You Tube Video Presentations by Dr. Noorchashm and Dr. Reed.

Segment 1: Hooman Noorchashm MD, PhD on the morcellation disaster: A root cause analysis and personal perspective. You Tube Video: <http://youtu.be/n6226ic0Mpk>

Segment 2: Amy J. Reed MD, PhD on the morcellation disaster: A physician, patient and mother of six, gives a personal perspective. You Tube Video: <http://youtu.be/glwxfkXGekw>

Segment 3: Dr Noorchashm presents his research and perspective leading to a plan of action to ban the procedure of morcellation and revising the 510K medical device approval process. You Tube Video: <http://youtu.be/Qvg5OXaiEiM>

HW USA has joined with the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) as part of a brand new partnership, the U.S. Stakeholder Forum on Antimicrobial Resistance (“S-FAR”). About this partnership. "...the S-FAR will serve as an informal and convenient yet effective mechanism to coordinate efforts to inform and advise the U.S. government on matters relating to antibiotic resistance (AR)."

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Healthcare Associated Infections

Recovery of the Gut Microbiome following Fecal Microbiota Transplantation

"Fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) has provided a successful treatment method for some patients with recurrent C. difficile infection, but its mechanism and long-term effects remain unknown. Our results provide insight into the structural and potential metabolic changes that occur following FMT, which may aid in the development of new treatment methods for C. difficile infection." <http://mbio.asm.org/content/5/3/e00893-14.full>

Invisible threats, invisible victims: What Michigan hospitals don't want you to know about infections

"They suffer infections – in the blood, from surgery, from resistance to antibiotics. You cannot find many details from state health officials. They are invisible that way too."

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2014/06/invisible_menaces_what_michiga_1.html#incart_river_default

Patient Safety

Hospitals To Pay Big Fines For Infections, Avoidable Injuries

"Medicare is preparing to penalize about 750 hospitals that have the highest rates of infections and patient injuries."

"In 2012, 1 out of every 8 patients nationally suffered a potentially avoidable complication during a hospital stay, the government estimates."

'Dr. Clifford McDonald, a senior adviser at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, says the worst performers 'still have a lot of room to move in a positive direction.' "

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2014/06/23/323998618/hospitals-to-pay-big-fines-for-infections-avoidable-injuries>

Health Watch USA Comments on New Value Purchasing Initiative to Reduce Hospital Acquired Conditions.

Read Comment <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20140627-HAC-Comments.pdf>

Should joint replacement manufacturers provide a warranty for their products

<http://www.orthogate.org/news/viewpoints/should-joint-replacement-manufactures-provide-a-warranty-for-their-products.html>

Boxed warnings on antidepressant medications associated with an increase in suicide attempts among young people.

"Safety warnings about antidepressants and widespread media coverage decreased antidepressant use, and there were simultaneous increases in suicide attempts among young people. It is essential to monitor and reduce possible unintended consequences of FDA warnings and media reporting." <http://www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g3596>

Healthcare Reform

Huge Price Variation Between Healthcare Facilities, Up to 23 times for a Lipid Panel.

<http://ir.castlighthealth.com/investor-relations/press-releases/press-release-details/2014/New-Analysis-from-Castlight-Health-Ranks-Most-and-Least-Expensive-Cities-for-Common-Medical-Services/default.aspx>

Health reform subsidies cut premiums by 76%

"The HHS report looked at the 36 states using federal government exchanges and found taxpayers subsidize 76 percent of the average monthly premium."

http://www.fiercehealthpayer.com/story/health-reform-subsidies-cut-premiums-76/2014-06-18?utm_medium=nl&utm_source=internal

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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 <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. For more information go to: www.healthconference.org Registration is now open.

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