



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org July 16th, 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



July 8, 2014: The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Score

YouTube link to Leah Binder, CEO and President of The Leapfrog Group and Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, Health Watch USA's presentation on Healthcare Transparency and the Leapfrog Group's Hospital Ranking System. You Tube Video of presentation (webcast/talk radio) on Healthcare Transparency and The Leap Frog Group's Hospital Rating System (36 mins)

<http://youtu.be/DsGvX50jZqg> or <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Meeting/20140708-Leah-Binder/20140708-Binder-Kavanagh.htm>

References Related to the Presentation: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Meeting/20140708-Leah-Binder/20140708-Related-References-Self-Reporting.htm>



Dr. Amy Reed's HW USA Meeting Video on Dangers from Uterine Morcellation has over 500 views on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glwxfkXGekw>

Coverage and Video of Dr. Reed by The Cancer Letter: http://www.cancerletter.com/articles/20140704_1

Healthcare Associated Infections

MRSA and C. Difficile Rates Fall with National Health Service (United Kingdom) Control Policies
<http://www.annalsjournal.com/article/S2049-0801%2812%2970012-2/fulltext>

Weekly Bathing with Chlorhexidine Did Not Reduce Soft Tissue MRSA in Military Trainees

"Personal hygiene and education measures, including once-weekly use of chlorhexidine body wash, did not prevent overall SSTI (soft tissue skin infections) or MRSA SSTI in a high-risk population of military trainees."

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24633684>

Low Dose Antibiotics May Promote Bacterial Biofilms and Infections

<http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/news/2014/07/scientist-finds-link-between-antibiotics-bacterial-biofilms-and-chronic-infections.aspx>

Twelve Outbreaks of CRE in Florida since 2008 affected 490 People.

"The speed at which the epidemic...is spreading in our healthcare system mandates urgent action."

<http://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/news/news/nightmare-germs-found-across-florida/ngF7K/#3d6544c7.3782703.735397>

Patient Safety

One Third of Knee Implants may be Unnecessary ?

"Data from 205 persons with TKA were examine." "Approximately a third of TKA surgeries were judged to be inappropriate." <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/art.38685/abstract>

U.S. Health System Ranks Last Among 11 Countries on Measures of Access, Equity, Quality, Efficiency, and Healthy Lives

"The Commonwealth Fund's Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: How the Performance of the U.S. Health Care System Compares Internationally, finds that the U.S. ranks last overall on measures of health system quality, efficiency, access to care, equity, and healthy lives, compared with Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand Norway, Sweden Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. "

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2014/jun/mirror-mirror>

United Kingdom Proposed Legislation on Safe Staffing and Full Disclosure

<http://www.nursingtimes.net/nursing-practice/clinical-zones/patient-safety/legislation-on-safe-staffing-and-duty-of-candour-laid-before-parliament/5072792.article>

Copy of the Proposed Law: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2014/9780111117613>

Healthcare Reform

Physician's Role in Hospital Governance Has Been Lessened.

" .. a multi-hospital health system would be permitted to have a single, integrated medical staff. CMS took a middle ground approach by requiring that when a hospital elects to have a single medical staff, each individual hospital medical staff must opt in or opt out."

"The final rule also replaces a requirement for the hospital governing body to include a member of the medical staff with a requirement that the governing body must directly consult at least two times per year with the medical staff." From AMA Wire July 1, 2014.

Hospital Consolidation in Massachusetts Has Driven Up Costs.

"Investigations by the state attorney general's office have documented that the merger gave the hospitals enormous market leverage to drive up health care costs in the Boston area by demanding high reimbursements from insurers that were unrelated to the quality or complexity of care delivered."

The New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/07/opinion/the-risks-of-hospital-mergers.html>

Nonprofit hospitals thrive on profits

Hospitals in the Charlotte region are among the most profitable in the U.S. They have billions in investments and real estate. Experts say they should do more to lower patients' rising costs.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/hospitals/>

Value Based Purchasing Cost BCBS \$65 million dollars a year but saved \$500 million in 2012.

<http://www.bcbs.com/healthcare-news/bcbsa/bcbs-companies-direct-more-than-65b-in-medical-spending-to-value-based-care-programs.html>

The Commonwealth Fund Finds The Number of Uninsured Dropping

"The uninsured rate for people ages 19 to 64 declined from 20 percent in the July-to-September 2013 period to 15 percent in the April-to-June 2014 period."

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2014/jul/health-coverage-access-aca?omnicid=EALERT513380&mid=kavanagh.ent@gmail.com>

=====

Upcoming Events:

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?

HW USA Annual Patient Safety Conference



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. This year's conference will focus on patient safety, advocacy, healthcare associated infections and multi-resistant drug organisms. (A working agenda can be viewed at <http://www.healthconference.org/agenda.htm>)

In the Conference's Patient Advocacy Section, we have a number of nationally renowned speakers, including Past Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, MD, Kathy Day, RN, and Karen Meyers, JD. In addition, the following presentations will deal with full disclosure.

- Patient Advocate David Anton will present on how a lack of transparency can inhibit the correction of medical errors that are found on CMS Surveys. (David Anton is the patient advocate who was involved in the CMS, Cleveland Clinic, VA Secretary Appointment Issue.) <http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20140607/MAGAZINE/306079939/-cleveland->

[clinic-cases-highlight-flaws-in-safety-oversight](#)

- Dr. Steve Kraman, will give an update on the full disclosure initiative. Dr. Kraman was one of the first to start the full disclosure initiative back in the late 1990's. It has since been adopted by Stanford University and the University of Michigan and found to lower malpractice costs.
- James Anderson, will give the morning keynote address on disclosure of adverse events. Mr. Anderson is on the Board of Directors for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) & Former President and Chief Executive Officer, Cincinnati Children's Hospital. About the James M. Anderson Center for Health Systems Excellence.

In the Conference's Adverse Events and Healthcare Associated Infections Section, Dr. Richard Wild, Chief Medical Officer CMS Atlanta Region will present on the CMS initiative on decreasing Hospital Acquired Conditions (HACs). Representative Tom Burch, Kentucky House Health and Welfare Committee Chairman and Dr. Kraig Humbaugh, Director of the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) Division of Epidemiology Planning will present on the revised Kentucky regulation for reportable diseases, including CRE. Dr. Joseph Solomkin will present on the prevention of surgical site infections, and Dr. Raul Nakamatsu will present the Louisville, VA experience of universal surveillance to control MRSA.

Conference registration is \$50. To register go to: <http://www.healthconference.org/payment-fax-check.htm>

Full conference agenda can be viewed at: <http://www.healthconference.org/agenda.htm>

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

**To subscribe to Health Watch USAsm
newsletter go to:**

<http://www.hwusa-newsletter.org/lists/?p=subscribe&id=1>



Visit and "Like" HW USA's Face Book Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/HealthWatchUsa>

