



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

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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

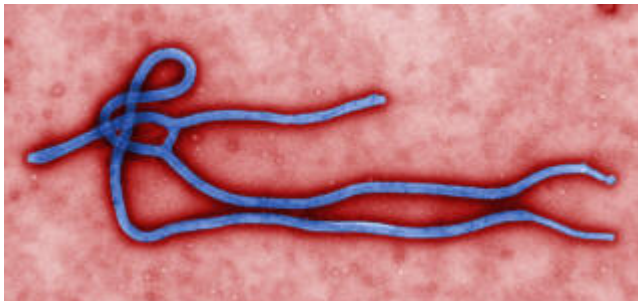
S-FAR Presentation on MRSA Surveillance, Chlorhexidine and Bacterial Resistance

The following YouTube video served as a basis for the 2014 Health Watch USA presentation at the Stakeholders Forum on Antimicrobial Resistance in Philadelphia, PA. The video is a quick review regarding MRSA Surveillance, Antibiotic Resistance and our concerns with Chlorhexidine. The YouTube URL is:

<http://youtu.be/MC7ztSASvuc>

A PDF of the slides can be downloaded from: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Community/20141009-Kavanagh-SFAR/sfar-2014-Version-2.pdf>

- A comment at S-FAR regarding: Open US Borders and Resistant Bacteria. A short point and counterpoint on the US Open Borders and Immigration policy on antibiotic resistant bacteria. Oct. 9, 2014 SFAR Meeting. YouTube URL is: <http://youtu.be/4HV4f7qqy-8>



Health Watch USA Op-Ed on the Lessons Learned from the Ebola Outbreak.

"The two most important lessons to be learned from the Ebola incident are:

- We need a more integrated healthcare system, one that can more quickly respond to biological threats. All healthcare facilities of all types should be on the same page; anyone which deviates from a protocol places all of society at risk. Such deviations need to be quickly

detected and corrected.

- Most important is the power of transparency. If this first Ebola case had been swept under the rug and covered up, other facilities might have been destined to repeat the mistake. But through transparency and all of the news media coverage, it is unlikely other facilities will make the same mistake. Public reporting and centralized tracking of these dangerous infectious is imperative."

Lexington Herald Leader: www.kentucky.com/2014/10/12/3476736_ky-voices-dr-kevin-kavanagh-on.html

- Nurses Call on Obama to Direct Hospitals to Follow Highest Standards for Beating Ebola As News Breaks that Second Health Worker in Dallas Tests Positive for Ebola, 11,500 RNs Join National Conference Call for Nurses on Preparedness
<http://www.nationalnursesunited.org/press/entry/nurses-call-on-obama-to-direct-hospitals-to-follow-highest-standards-for-be/>
- Nurses union: 'We've been lied to' about Ebola preparedness
<http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/nurses-union-weve-been-lied-about-ebola-preparedness>
- CDC Flyer on Ebola: [Download Flyer](#)

- "'Lessons Learned' treating Ebola patients in US": <http://www.healio.com/infectious-disease/practice-management/news/online/%7B443af8d6-a116-4071-9c72-a743bc1ff078%7D/lessons-learned-treating-ebola-patients-in-us>
- Are Hospitals Ready to Treat Ebola ? "Ebola and Hospitals: How Great Is the Threat?" <http://www.medpagetoday.com/InfectiousDisease/Ebola/48105>

State of Kentucky Files New Regulation on Reporting of Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDRO)

Health Watch USA has written multiple op-eds and has testified repeatedly before both the State House and Senate Committee in support of expanding mandatory reporting of MDROs.

View Testimonies: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Testimony/HWUSA-Testimony.htm>

View Op-Eds: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Publications/HW-USA-editorials.htm>

This regulation has a number of sections which will significantly strengthen the reporting of MDROs. Specifically the regulation:

- Quantitates and tightens the definition of an outbreak. "A single case of an HAI not commonly diagnosed such as a postsurgical group A Streptococcus infection or healthcare-associated Legionella infection."
- Allows the Kentucky Health Department to have ready access to the National Healthcare Safety Network data. "A healthcare facility in Kentucky that participates in CMS reporting programs shall authorize the CDC to allow the Kentucky Department for Public Health to access health care-associated infection data reported to NHSN"
- A number of dangerous infections will be electronically reported to the state starting in Oct 2016. These will include:
 1. Vancomycin Resistant Staph Aureus (VISA and VRSA).
 2. Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus.
 3. Toxin Producing C. Difficile.
 4. Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE).
 5. Multi-Resistant Drug Acinetobacter.
 6. Multi-Resistant Pseudomonas.

To View the Filed Regulation: [Download Filed Regulation 902 KAR 2:020](#)



Dr. Gavin West, Special Assistant, Office of the Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations, on the HW USA's Jack Pattie Show

Dr. Gavin West, Dr. Steve Kraman and Dr. Kevin T. Kavanagh, discuss the VA Healthcare System. <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Meeting/20141014-VA-Healthcare/20141014-VA-Healthcare.htm>

VA Leads the Nation in Reduction of MRSA Infection

"Among VA patients in intensive care units (ICU) between 2007 and 2012, healthcare-associated MRSA infection rates dropped 72 percent—from 1.64 to 0.46 per 1,000 patient days.

Infection rates dropped 66 percent—from 0.47 to 0.16 per 1,000 patient days—for patients treated in non-ICU hospital units. " <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2642>

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, pharmacists, social workers, occupational therapists 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. Kevin Kavanagh 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

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