



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Nov. 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

Time is running out !!!

Health Watch USA's eight annual patient safety and advocacy conference will be held on Nov 7th, 2014 in Lexington Kentucky. It is an all-day affair. The morning presentations will discuss the importance of full disclosure to the patient of medical errors, the afternoon will be about Healthcare Associated Infections. The cost is \$50 and includes lunch. If you are a medical doctor, nurse, pharmacist, social worker, attorney, occupational therapists or physical therapist you can also receive six hours or more of continuing education credits. For more information go to www.healthconference.org.

Watch Channel 18 Lexington's Coverage of the Conference (YouTube - 3 mins)
<http://youtu.be/2rvfAYw1HiA>

Health Watch USA Published Chapter on Preventing Healthcare Associated Infections in New Patient Advocacy Book



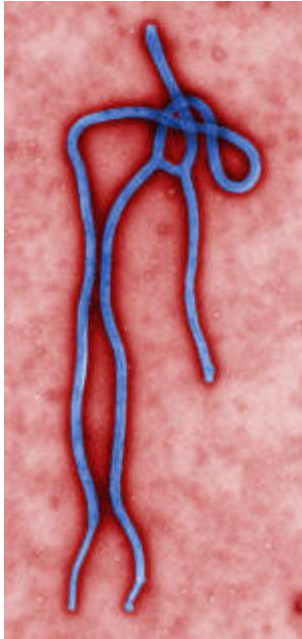
While the great improvements in patient safety, hand hygiene, germ-theory, and microbiology cannot be overstated, at present, hospitals still struggle to achieve anything close to 100% hand hygiene compliance and have had only limited success at reducing preventable infections and associated harm. The field of patient safety is maturing fast, with striking new research consistently changing perceptions of safety. No longer does the field cling to the old paradigm of infections as an inevitable consequence of medical care; rather, according to the newer understanding—substantiated with great evidence— the majority of infections and ensuing harm are preventable. -Daniel Saman, DrPH,

MPH, CPH

View Book on Amazon:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/d/1442231602/ref=redir_mdp_mobile?keywords=truth%20about%20big%20medicine&qid=1413565662&ref_=sr_1_1&sr=8-1#





Daniel Saman, Chief Epidemiologist of Health Watch USA, Talks About Ebola on CNN

<http://www.cnn.com/video/data/2.0/video/bestoftv/2014/10/19/ndw-dangers-of-ebola-daniel-saman.cnn.html>

Health Watch USA - Discusses Ebola on the Jack Pattie Radio / Webcast Show

View Webcast: http://youtu.be/oav_fmHSKhE

Hospitals Struggle To Beat Back Serious Infections - NPR

NPR: "Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, a patient safety specialist from Kentucky, said hospitals often fail to strictly follow protocols to deal with infectious diseases, and the government's standard responses aren't specific enough. "Right now there are too many recommendations on how to handle infectious diseases, too much leeway," he said."

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2014/10/21/357618079/hospitals-struggle-to-beat-back-serious-infections>

Nurses face obstacles on front lines against Ebola

USA Today: "Kevin Kavanagh, an infection-control activist who leads the watchdog group Health Watch USA in Somerset, Ky., says training with infection-control gear is sorely needed, with advice on its use is still evolving."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/10/23/nurses-face-ebola-challenges/17661387/>

Kevin Kavanagh, Health Watch USA, on Ebola in the Lexington Herald Leader.

Officials at rural Kentucky hospitals describe steps they're taking to prepare for Ebola. Oct. 18, 2014.

<http://www.kentucky.com/2014/10/17/3487231/officials-at-rural-kentucky-hospitals.html>

Health Watch USA Joins with the S-FAR Coalition to Request CMS Promote Antibiotic Stewardship

"We are encouraged that the PCAST report on antibiotic resistance, the Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB) National Strategy and Executive Order all present tremendous opportunities to improve patient care and public health. We look forward to working with all relevant federal agencies to implement the recommendations and achieve the goals set forth in these documents." **Read Letter** [http://www.hwusa-newsletter.org/Newsletter-Pages/Images-2014/20141103-CMS Stewardship takeholder Letter.pdf](http://www.hwusa-newsletter.org/Newsletter-Pages/Images-2014/20141103-CMS%20Stewardship%20takeholder%20Letter.pdf)

Recent Online APIC Poll Found Only 6.5% of Facilities Well Prepared For EBOLA.

View Poll [http://www.hwusa-newsletter.org/Newsletter-Pages/Images-2014/201410244-Ebola Readiness Poll Results FINAL.pdf](http://www.hwusa-newsletter.org/Newsletter-Pages/Images-2014/201410244-Ebola%20Readiness%20Poll%20Results%20FINAL.pdf)

National Nurses United Co-President Deborah Burger Testimony before US. House of Representatives on Ebola.

"In a survey done by National Nurses United 85% of RNs say they have not been adequately trained and the level of preparedness for Ebola in our facilities is woefully insufficient."

View Testimony <http://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Burger-NUU-Statement-10-24-Ebola.pdf>

CDC Strengthens Guidelines for Staff Treating Ebola Patients

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/fs1020-ebola-personal-protective-equipment.html>

On an Antibiotic? You May Be Getting Only a False Sense of Security

New York Times: "The best way to prevent transmission of Ebola in the United States is to identify and quarantine those with the disease as soon as possible. However, the first Ebola patient in this country was, unfortunately, released after going to an emergency room, even though he had symptoms indicative of the disease. He was sent home on antibiotics."

www.nytimes.com/2014/10/21/upshot/on-an-antibiotic-you-may-be-getting-only-a-false-sense-of-security.html

=====

The Leapfrog Group Releases Updated Hospital Safety Scores

The Hospital Safety Score uses national performance measures from the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the American Hospital Association's Annual Survey and Health Information Technology Supplement. Hospital Safety Scores are assigned to more than 2,500 hospitals across the nation twice annually.

<http://www.hospitalsafetyscore.org/>

See Webcast / Radio Presentation from Leah Binder, CEO The Leapfrog Group:

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

Accountable Care Act Insurance Premiums are Increasing

HealthPocket: "Unsubsidized premiums were found to have increased from 2013 to 2014 across all groups examined. Average premium costs for 23-year-old women and men increased 44.9% and 78.2% respectively after the ACA's implementation."

<http://www.healthpocket.com/healthcare-research/infostat/obamacare-2014-premiums-higher-than-pre-reform-market>

Doctors Order Unnecessary Tests in Emergency Department Despite Malpractice Reform

NEJM: "Legislation that substantially changed the malpractice standard for emergency physicians in three states had little effect on the intensity of practice, as measured by imaging rates, average charges, or hospital admission rates. (Funded by the Veterans Affairs Office of Academic Affiliations and others.)"

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1313308>

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



**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 Facebook Page at:

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