



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org May 1, 2015

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

Safety Oversight of Medical Devices is Being Called Into Question:

Over the last year HW USA has disseminated abundant information on the risks of implantable medical devices. We have focused on three areas which we felt represent just the tip of the iceberg and illustrates the problems with safety monitoring of medical devices. (Morcellators, GI Endoscopes, and Metal on Metal Hip Implants).

This problem is starting to come to the forefront with two FBI Investigations into two of these implant types.

FBI Is Investigating Hysterectomy Device Found to Spread Uterine Cancer.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/fbi-is-investigating-surgical-device-1432746641>

<http://www.mddionline.com/article/fbi-investigating-morcellators-05-29-15>

HW USA Presentations on surgical morcellation - You Tube Videos Featuring Dr. Hooman Noorchashm and Dr. Amy Reed.

<https://youtu.be/IY4sFn5hybg>

<https://youtu.be/gIwxfkXGekw>

<https://youtu.be/n6226ic0Mpk>

Feds subpoena records from maker of medical scopes

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/05/28/justice-subpoenas-records-from-olympus-on-duodenoscopes/28078045/>

HW USA Presentation on the Dangers of Retrograde Medical Endoscopes Featuring Dr. Lawrence Muscarella:

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Meeting/20150415-CRE-Endoscopes/20150515-Muscarella.htm>

Science publication is hopelessly compromised, say journal editors

The Lancet's April 11, 2015, Dr. Richard Horton, editor-in-chief, wrote: "The case against science is straightforward: much of the scientific literature, perhaps half, may simply be untrue. Afflicted by studies with small sample sizes, tiny effects, invalid exploratory analyses, and flagrant conflicts of interest, together with an obsession for pursuing fashionable trends of dubious importance, science has taken a turn towards darkness. As one participant put it, "poor methods get results". "

Read *Lancet's* Editorial: <http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736%2815%2960696-1.pdf>

ACSH <http://acsh.org/2015/05/science-publication-is-hopelessly-compromised-say-journal-editors/>

A New U.S. Supreme Court Ruling States Industrial Boards Cannot be Controlled by

Participants They Regulates. Thus, Physicians on Medical Boards must comprise less than 50% of the voting membership.

"In February 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case of North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission. The actual court ruling is so wonky that it even went over the head of most policy wonks. It says, basically, that state agencies cannot be controlled by "active participants" in the regulated trade or profession lest they run afoul of antitrust laws. "

Source Reporting On Health: <http://www.reportingonhealth.org/2015/05/08/overlooked-court-case-puts-industry-friendly-state-medical-boards-notice>

Long Response to NEJM Attack on Conflict of Interest

NEJM: Conflicts of Interest can foster relationships which produce a model which can advance medicine <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMe1503623>

Roy Pose: "Say It Ain't So: Logical Fallacies in Defense of Conflicts of Interest ... in the New England Journal of Medicine?"

<http://hcrenewal.blogspot.co.uk/2015/05/say-it-aint-so-logical-fallacies-in.html>

CDC Conflict of Interest With Industry?

"After revelations that the CDC is receiving some funding from industry, Jeanne Lenzer investigates how it might have affected the organisation's decisions" BMJ:

<http://www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h2362>

New Medicare Data Reveals What Hospitals are Paid.

Joint Replacements are the largest portion of the budget, costing \$6.6 billion dollars, followed by septicemia (severe infections) costing \$5.6 billion.

Hospital Medicare Payments: <http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2015-Fact-sheets-items/2015-06-01.html>

New Study Supports the Importance of Contact Precautions

"MRSA transmission from MRSA-positive residents to HCW gown and gloves is substantial; high-contact activities of daily living confer the highest risk. These activities do not involve overt contact with body fluids, skin breakdown, or mucous membranes, which suggests the need to modify current standards of care involving the use of gowns and gloves in the nursing home setting."

Roghmann MC, Johnson JK, Sorkin JD, Langenberg P, Lydecker A, Sorace B, Levy L, Mody L. Transmission of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) to Healthcare Worker Gowns and Gloves During Care of Nursing Home Residents. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol. 2015 May 26:1-8. [Epub ahead of print] <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26008727>

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Health Watch USA - Patient Safety Conference November 13, 2015 At the Four Points Sheraton in Lexington, Kentucky

Speakers Include:

- **Peter Eisler**, Medical Reporter for USA Today, presenting on the newspaper's role in the assurance of medical quality.
- **Briana Aguirre**, RN, Nurse and Healthcare Quality Advocate who treated the first patient with Ebola in Texas.
- **Kaci Hickox, MPH, RN**, Nurse and Healthcare Quality Advocate who treated patients with Ebola in Africa. She underwent mandatory quarantine upon her return to the United States, despite being asymptomatic and not having any history of a break in contact precaution protocols.
- **Richard Wild, MD, MPH**, Chief Medical Officer CMS Atlanta Region
- **Kraig Humbaugh MD, MSP** Director, Epidemiology and Health Planning Kentucky Department for Public Health.

Download Conference Flyer: <http://www.healthconference.org/2015conference-downloads/20151113-ConferenceFlyer-SDM.pdf>

For More Information And a Full List of Speakers Go To: www.healthconference.org

To Register Go To: <http://www.healthconference.org/payment-fax-check.htm>

Future Health Watch USA Meetings:

- Jun. 17, 2015 at 7:00 PM ET. Speaker: Jason Pradarelli, MD, MS Candidate 2016, on the recent JAMA article on "Hospital Credentialing and Privileging of Surgeons A Potential Safety Blind Spot" <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2214093>

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