



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Aug 15, 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

Medical Devices - Health Watch USA In the News



USA Today: Deadly Infections From Medical Scopes Go Unreported, Raising Health Risks

"They're saying the [scopes'] benefit is high, and that's true, but they don't really know the risks, because they don't have solid data on complications," says Kevin Kavanagh, an ear, nose and throat doctor who heads Health Watch USA, a patient safety group. "Without knowing the true risks, it's not really an informed decision. It's a judgment call."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/08/05/duodenoscope-infections-not-reported/29988165/>

The Dangers of Medical Devices. Tighter Oversight is Needed.

HW USA Editorial in Herald Leader Aug 14, 2015. We all need to encourage Congress to amend the 21st Century Cures Act to assure effective pre-market testing and post-market monitoring of medical devices." <http://www.kentucky.com/2015/08/13/3987638/without-more-monitoring-medical.html>

LEXINGTON
HERALD-LEADER
KENTUCKY.COM

Healthcare Quality



Webinar on Physician Conflict-Of-Interest

Dr. Leana Wen, Baltimore City Health Commissioner and Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA discuss concerns of physician conflict-of-interest, the high cost of healthcare, medical overutilization and Me-Too Drugs; along with the current healthcare challenges facing the city of Baltimore. (Jack Pattie Radio Show, Aug. 11, 2015.) YouTube version of Dr. Wen's Webinar at <https://youtu.be/ExRNjplb570>

Half Of Nation's Hospitals Fail Again To Escape Medicare's Readmission Penalties

"Once again, the majority of the nation's hospitals are being penalized by Medicare for having patients frequently return within a month of discharge — this time losing a combined \$420 million, government

records show."

<http://khn.org/news/half-of-nations-hospitals-fail-again-to-escape-medicare-readmission-penalties/>

Yelp expands its hospital reviews: ER wait times, doc communication now available to consumers

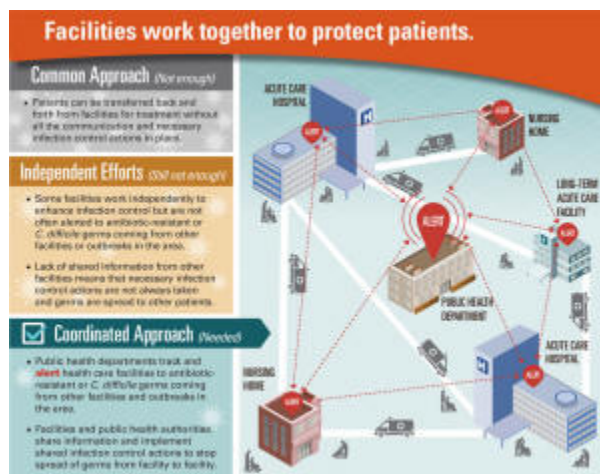
Yelp is also teaming "with ProPublica to provide patients with healthcare data from Medicare's Hospital Compare site."

http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/yelp-expands-its-hospital-reviews-er-wait-times-doc-communication-now-avail/2015-08-06?utm_medium=nl&utm_source=internal

Levaquin: FDA fails to disclose additional serious side effects of antibiotic linked to deaths

"In addition, our investigation obtained an FDA database of adverse effects and found 3,000 deaths and 200,000 complaints of serious effects associated with Levaquin and similar drugs."

<http://www.10news.com/news/levaquin-fda-fails-to-disclose-additional-serious-side-effects-of-antibiotic-linked-to-deaths-072815>



Healthcare Infections (Figure on the Left from [CDC Vital Signs](#) -- Click to enlarge)

New Article Shows How Antiseptics Can Induce Antibiotic Resistance in Bacteria.

Recently the mechanism by which antiseptics can cause bacterial resistance to antibiotics was explained in the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy. The article studied four different antiseptics including quaternary ammonium and concluded that these antiseptics selected for multi-drug resistant mutants which "resulted in de-repression of the multidrug efflux pump AcrAB-TolC."

Other types of mutations were also observed. The end result was that resistance emerged including resistance to the antiseptic triclosan, nalidixic acid, chloramphenicol and tetracycline and quinolone antibiotics.

"All biocides tested selected MDR mutants with decreased antibiotic susceptibility; these occurred randomly throughout the experiments. Mutations that resulted in de-repression of the multidrug efflux pump AcrAB-TolC were seen in MDR mutants. A novel mutation in rpoA was also selected and contributed to the MDR phenotype. Other mutants were highly resistant to both quinolone antibiotics and the biocide triclosan." Read More at: <http://jac.oxfordjournals.org/content/70/8/2241.full>

Over a Decade Ago, L. Clifford McDonald, MD, FACP, Wrote About Controlling the MRSA Epidemic in Louisville, KY.

"We have had little success in controlling these forms of resistance in part due to common misconceptions regarding the factors most responsible for the explosive spread of MRSA and VRE. Two such misconceptions are that MRSA and VRE are already well entrenched in the community and these forms of

resistance frequently develop de novo among susceptible strains in response to intensive antimicrobial pressure. Unfortunately, these misconceptions undermine the importance of preventing patient-to-patient transmission within healthcare facilities as the primary means for controlling resistance." [View Article](#)
From: McDonald LC. Illicit commerce within healthcare: the spread of antimicrobial resistance in Louisville-area hospitals [special article]. Louisville Medicine 2002; 50: 235-7.

USA Needs to Take Immediate Steps to Fight Super Bugs, Experts Say

"The USA could save 37,000 lives over the next five years by taking immediate action to improve the way it fights health care-associated infections, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Infections with super bugs – bacteria that can't be killed even with standard antibiotics – cause more than 2 million illnesses and at least 23,000 deaths a year, according to the CDC."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/08/04/cdc-super-bugs/31112659/>

CDC's New Recommendations on Controlling MDROs

One of the important points on reporting: "Connect with the public health department to share data about antibiotic resistance and other HAIs"

<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/stop-spread/>

Lack Of Cooperation Among Health Facilities Mars Antibiotic Resistance Fight, CDC Says

<http://khn.org/news/lack-of-cooperation-among-health-facilities-mars-antibiotic-resistance-fight-cdc-says/>

Antibiotic Resistance Doesn't Just Make Bacteria Harder to Kill – It Can Actually Make Them Stronger

"There is a general belief that if antibiotics are used only when needed, the antibiotic-susceptible strains will outcompete the less fit – but resistant – strains. But this strategy might not be enough to combat bacteria that get stronger when they become drug-resistant instead of weaker."

<https://theconversation.com/antibiotic-resistance-doesnt-just-make-bacteria-harder-to-kill-it-can-actually-make-them-stronger-45074>

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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**, Investigative 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>

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Future Health Watch USA Meetings:

Health Watch USA's next meeting is on Aug. 19th at 7:00 PM ET. We have two excellent speakers.

- Dr. David Mayer, MD, Vice President, Quality and Safety from MedStar Healthcare.
<http://www.medstarhealth.org/mhs/about-medstar/medstar-health-leadership/david-mayer-md/>
- Mara Rice who will present on HW USA's new paper on how to measure and report Urinary Tract Infections which was published in the American Journal of Infection Control.
<http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553%2815%2900613-6/fulltext>

This should be an excellent meeting and we will also give updates on our upcoming conference. To attend these meetings over Adobe Connect (using your computer) please email us at healthwatchusa@gmail.com

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