



# Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Sept. 2, 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

## Healthcare Infections

### **MRSA infections remain a back-to-school risk.**

USA Today. Sept. 1, 2015: "Kavanagh says he'd like to see more comprehensive, uniform reporting requirements for these infections because greater transparency leads to better tracking of the problem and better prevention. Currently, reporting varies widely by state"

Odonnell J. & Ungar L. MRSA infections remain a back-to-school risk. USA Today. Sep. 1,



2015. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/09/01/mrsa-superbug-back--school-risks-st-albans/71489354/>

### **Hospital rooms are dirtier than you think**

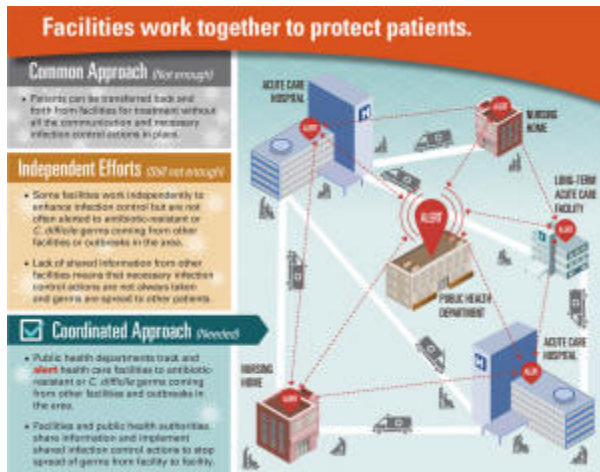
"An alarming new study shows that inconsistent cleaning procedures in hospitals are leading to a rising number of infections."

<http://www.newsquench.com/2015/08/surprise-hospital-rooms-are-dirtier-than-you-think/>

[http://www.philly.com/philly/health/hospitals/HealthDay702191\\_20150810\\_What\\_s\\_the\\_Best\\_Method\\_for\\_Cleaning\\_Hospital\\_Rooms\\_.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/health/hospitals/HealthDay702191_20150810_What_s_the_Best_Method_for_Cleaning_Hospital_Rooms_.html)

**Download AHRQ Report on Hospital Cleaning:** Leas BF, Sullivan N, Han JH, Pegues DA, Kaczmarek JL, Umscheid CA. Environmental Cleaning for the Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Infections

[Internet]. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK311016/>



## Making Health Care Safer

(Figure on the left from [CDC Vital Signs](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/stop-spread/) -- Click on picture to enlarge)

"Lack of shared information from other facilities means that necessary infection control actions are not always taken and germs are spread to other patients."

### A COORDINATED APPROACH is NEEDED

"Public Health departments track and alert health care facilities to antibiotic-resistant or C. difficile germs coming from other facilities an outbreaks in the area."

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

## CDC Clarifies Ebola Guidance

CDC provides Ebola PPE guidance clarifications to assist U.S. healthcare personnel

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/ppe/guidance.html>

## More Evidence Ties Antibiotics to Type 2 Diabetes Risk

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/Endocrinology/Diabetes/53283>

## CDC Releases Sepsis Fact Sheet

<http://www.cdc.gov/sepsis/pdfs/sepsis-fact-sheet.pdf>

## Health Watch USA Meeting Presentations

### David Mayer, MD, from Medstar Health System presents on Patient Safety

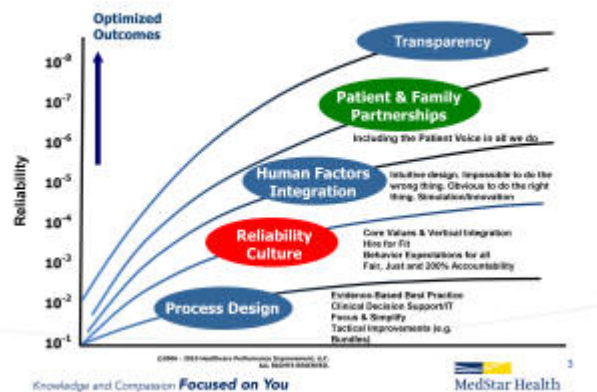
David Mayer, MD, Vice President for Quality and Safety for Medstar describes the important guiding principles and patient safety framework which is used at Medstar to promote and improve patient safety and resident education. Presented at the Aug. 19, 2015 Health Watch USA Meeting. (click on picture to enlarge) <https://youtu.be/Rwq3zWEVr2A>

### Mara Rice, RN, discusses concerns with the CDC NHSN CAUTI metric

Mara Rice, RN, discusses concerns regarding the CDC NHSN metric used to measure catheter associated urinary tract infections. This metric showed a 3 to 6% worsening in hospital performance. This compares to the AHRQ metric which showed a 28.2% improvement during a similar time frame. The question must be asked: Which one more closely measures true hospital performance?

<https://youtu.be/ueVSXmnbuqE>

### The MedStar Health Road to Success



## Medical Devices - Health Watch USA In the News

### Group questions fast-track approval of medical devices

"Researchers looked at the 28 products approved by the FDA from 2010 to 2011. There were 286 clinical studies of these devices, with 82 before approval and 204 after. Researchers found that about half of the premarket studies didn't compare the device to the current method of treatment."

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/group-questions-fast-track-approval-of-medical-devices/article/2570125>

### The F.D.A.'s Medical Device Problem

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/17/opinion/the-fdas-medical-device-problem.html>

### Congress Urges Government Accountability Office (GAO) To Probe Medical Devices

<http://www.fiercemedicaldevices.com/story/congress-urges-feds-probe-fda-over-morcellator-safety-concerns/2015-08-10>

### VA can't rule out 'superbug' infections tied to dirty scopes

"The new analysis of nearly 56,000 procedures in more than 40,000 veterans between January 2010 and February 2015 detected nearly 5,000 CRE isolates in 2,300 patients. During that time, 97 patients who were treated with the specialized medical scopes at 39 VA centers were infected with at least one CRE isolate, the report found. Twenty patients had the infections before the procedures."

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/va-cant-rule-out-superbug-infections-tied-to-dirty-scopes/>

## Health Care Finance & Insurance

### Competition Among Medicare's Private Health Plans: Does It Really Exist?

"Our analysis of Medicare Advantage plan market shares for 2012 indicates there is little competition anywhere in the nation. "

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2015/aug/competition-medicare-private-plans-does-it-exist>

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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](http://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 Meeting on Sep. 16th at 7:00 PM ET.**

Speaker: L. Clifford McDonald, MD, Senior Adviser for Science and Integrity, Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To present of C. Difficile on surveillance, testing, diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

**These should be an excellent meetings and we will also give updates on our upcoming conference.** Please mark your calendar for Sept 16th 2015, 7 PM ET. To attend the meeting go to <http://healthwatchusa.adobeconnect.com/cdiff2015/> Select the Guest Option and enter your name.

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