



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Sept. 20, 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

***Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI)**

- ❑ Anaerobic bacterium
- ❑ Not normal intestinal bacterium
- ❑ Fecal-oral spread
- ❑ Forms spores that persist
- ❑ Toxins produce colitis
 - Diarrhea
 - More severe disease, death
- ❑ 2-steps to infection
 - Antibiotics result in vulnerability
 - New acquisition via transmission

Figure courtesy of D. Gerding and S. Johnson

Clifford McDonald, MD, From the CDC Discusses Clostridium Difficile.

L. Clifford McDonald, MD, from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention discusses the prevention and surveillance for Clostridium Difficile. Health Watch USA meeting, Sept. 16, 2015. <https://youtu.be/7geB8FQXXtQ>

Screening Can Prevent Surgical MRSA infections

USA Today. Sept. 1, 2015: In a recent article in JAMA, Loreen Herwaldt, the Corresponding Author, reported that surveillance and decolonization decreased serious surgical site infections by 40%. (Medicine Iowa, Summer 2015, page 5)

"If they do carry the staph bacteria, the protocol we describe in the paper can lower their risk of a serious staph infection by about 40 percent," says Loreen Herwaldt, MD,



<https://medcom.uiowa.edu/medicine/pre-surgery-screening-reduces-staph-infections/>

JAMA: <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2300601>

Could a \$14 test stop US hospitals from spreading deadly bacteria?

"Peterson estimates "search and destroy" saves 18 lives and \$2.4 million a year in health care costs at just NorthShore's four hospitals.

Others hospitals in the area that don't practice active detection have MRSA infection rates 10 times higher, according to data filed with Illinois' Department of Health. "

<http://america.aljazeera.com/watch/shows/america-tonight/articles/2015/9/4/14-dollar-test-stop-hospitals-from-spreading-mrsa.html>

Could Stopping Staph aureus Alter the Course of Diabetes

Medicine Iowa: "UI researcher Patrick Schlievert ('76 PhD) blames superantigen molecules produced by S. aureus for much of the bacterium's pathogenicity. Inside the body, these toxins disrupt the immune system and ultimately lead to inflammation— the driver of many diseases, including diabetes." <https://medcom.uiowa.edu/medicine/stopping-staph/>

World Healthcare Organization Fact Sheet on Healthcare Associated Infections

Download Fact Sheet http://www.who.int/gpsc/country_work/gpsc_ccisc_fact_sheet_en.pdf

CDC Recommends All Nursing Homes Implement Core Elements to Improve Antibiotic Use

"Approximately 4.1 million Americans are admitted to or reside in nursing homes each year. Antibiotics are the most frequently prescribed medications in nursing homes. Up to 70 percent of residents receive one or more courses of antibiotics during a year. Up to 75 percent of antibiotics prescribed in nursing homes are given incorrectly, meaning either the drug is unnecessary or the prescription is for the wrong drug, dose, or duration"

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p0915-nursing-home-antibiotics.html>

Medical Devices - Health Watch USA In the News

Probe of superbug-tainted medical scopes grows to include cleaning machines

USA Today: "The FDA's conclusion that more testing is needed "ties up a loose end in the investigation, but raises the question of why they didn't pursue this angle sooner," says Lawrence Muscarella, a Pennsylvania health care consultant who advises hospitals and medical device manufacturers on safety issues."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/09/15/probe-superbug-tainted-medical-scopes-grows-include-cleaning-machines/72316990/>

Health Care Finance & Insurance

New facility fee gives patient heartburn

Lansing State Journal: Several years ago, some members of Congress tried to end the facility fee payment for non-hospital settings such as urgent care and doctor's offices but they lost those battles, said Kevin Kavanagh, board chairman of the Health Watch USA, a health policy nonprofit based in Kentucky. "This is now very common, and it's probably the motivating factor that has gotten physicians to leave private practice and enter hospital employment," Kavanagh said in a phone interview. "It's impossible to run a business when you have a competitor that gets paid twice as much."

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/opinion/columnists/judy-putnam/2015/09/13/putnam-facilityfees/72093674/>

When The Hospital Is Boss, That's Where Doctors' Patients Go

Kaiser Healthcare News: "Ownership by a hospital "dramatically increases" odds that a doctor will admit patients there instead of another, nearby hospital, they found. Worse, from the viewpoint of reformers, it boosts chances that patients will go to higher-cost, lower-quality hospitals."

<http://khn.org/news/when-the-hospital-is-boss-thats-where-doctors-patients-go/>

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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 Meeting on Oct. 21st at 7:00 PM ET.

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