



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

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Nov. 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

## HW USA - Nov. 13, 2015 Patient Safety Conference

For More Information Go to [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org)

### Healthcare Infections

#### **New Study finds Developing Risks for Surgery and Cancer Chemotherapy from Drug Resistant Organisms.**

The Lancet: "Increasing antibiotic resistance potentially threatens the safety and efficacy of surgical procedures and immunosuppressing chemotherapy. More data are needed to establish how antibiotic prophylaxis recommendations should be modified in the context of increasing rates of resistance."

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Potential+burden+of+antibiotic+resistance+on+surge+ry+and+cancer+chemotherapy+antibiotic+prophylaxis+in+the+USA%3A+a+literature+review+and+modelling+study>

#### **Letter from CDC/CMS Calls for Need for Facilities to Adhere to NHSN Reporting Requirements and Standards.**

"CDC has received reports from NHSN users indicating that in some healthcare facilities, some of the decisions about what infections should be reported to NHSN are made by individuals who may choose to disregard CDC's protocol, definitions, and criteria or who are not thoroughly familiar with the NHSN specifications. While there is no evidence of a widespread problem, CDC and CMS take any deviation from NHSN protocols seriously."

<http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/cms/nhsn-reporting-signed.pdf>

#### **Kaci Hickox - Nurse Quarantined During Ebola Panic Sues Chris Christie**

Huffington Post: "Kaci Hickox, the nurse who never had Ebola but was quarantined last year by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) anyway, filed a lawsuit against the governor and his administration on Thursday, claiming that the quarantine violated her constitutional rights." (Kaci Hickox is a speaker at this year's HW USA Conference on Nov. 13, 2015.)

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/kaci-hickox-ebola-](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/kaci-hickox-ebola-lawsuit_56294609e4b0ec0a3893cbd4?ncid=fcbklnkushpimg00000013&section=politics)



[lawsuit\\_56294609e4b0ec0a3893cbd4?ncid=fcbklnkushpimg00000013&section=politics](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/kaci-hickox-ebola-lawsuit_56294609e4b0ec0a3893cbd4?ncid=fcbklnkushpimg00000013&section=politics)

## **Chlorhexidine Found Not To Be Advantageous Over Other Agents in Pre-Operative Patients**

JACS: "For clean-contaminated surgical cases, this large-scale state cohort study did not demonstrate superiority of any commonly used skin antiseptic agent in reducing the risk of SSI, nor did it find any unique effect of isopropyl alcohol. These results do not support the use of more expensive skin preparation agents."

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24364925>

## **HW USA Signs S-FAR Letter In Support of Antibiotic Stewardship in Long Term Care Facilities.**

"We therefore write in strong support of the antibiotic stewardship provisions in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS's) proposed rule revising the requirements long term care facilities (LTCFs) must meet to participate in Medicare and Medicaid programs". [View Letter](#)

## **Rise Of The Superbugs: When Antibiotics Stop Working**

Forbes: "In addition to the human price, there is a substantial economic cost. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that in the United States antibiotic-resistant bacteria sickens 2 million people each year, with 23,000 dying as a result. That leads to up to \$20 billion in excess direct healthcare costs, with additional costs to society, including lost productivity, as high as \$35 billion per year."

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2015/10/27/rise-of-the-superbugs-when-antibiotics-stop-working/>

## **Healthcare Quality**

### **2015 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Scores are Now Online**

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

### **Wall Street Journal Calls for a Bigger Role for the Media in Assuring Medical Device Safety**

"Too often, he said, reporters who do cover devices don't go far enough. "When you stop at the bad event, it doesn't illustrate the path that got us there." The larger story is really about the FDA, America's laissez-faire philosophy of regulation, its insatiable appetite for cures, and the clash of these elements with costs and safety. That story is much harder to tell."

<http://www.healthnewsreview.org/2015/10/why-the-media-must-play-a-bigger-role-in-policing-unsafe-medical-devices/>

## **Healthcare Overuse**

### **Early Trends Among Seven Recommendations From the Choosing Wisely Campaign**

New study shows that of 7 recommendations which were judged to be of "low value" but only two (imaging for headaches, and cardiac imaging for low risk patients) had a desirable decrease in utilization.

## Healthcare Finance

### **Dartmouth Accountable Care Organization to Close - Is this Delivery Model Unsustainable ??**

Healthcare Finance: "Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center will abandon the Pioneer Accountable Care Organization program, the system confirmed Tuesday, after losing more than \$3 million over the past two years in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid model."

<http://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/dartmouth-hitchcock-exit-pioneer-aco-program-over-losses-calls-model-%E2%80%98unsustainable%E2%80%99>

### **More Health Care Co-op Closings**

New York Times: "About a third, or eight, alternative health insurers created under President Obama's health care law to spur competition that might have made coverage less expensive for consumers are shutting down. The three largest are among that number."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/26/business/health-care-co-op-closings-narrow-consumers-choices.html>

### **One in Six Patients Go To Health Grades' Single Star Hospitals**

<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/healthgrades-1-6-patients-receive-care-1-star-hospitals/2015-10-20>

### **Rural Hospitals In Danger of Closing - MedPac Suggests Alternate Models**

<http://www.fiercehealthfinance.com/story/medpac-suggests-alternative-models-rural-hospitals/2015-10-15>



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

### **Speakers Include:**

#### **Medical Devices:**

- **Peter Eisler**, Investigative Reporter for USA Today, presenting on the newspaper's role in the assurance of medical quality.

- **Steve Tower, MD:** Medical risks and adverse events associated with Hip Implants.
- **Hooman Norchasm, MD:** Medical risks and adverse events associated with Morcellators.
- **Joleen Chambers,** president of FIDA (Failed Implant Device Association) will discuss overriding issues with implant safety.

**Healthcare Infections:**

- **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.
- **Kaci Giles, RN,** Vice-President National Nurses United. What the Ebola outbreak has taught us about need for standards in infection cont.
- **Kraig Humbaugh MD, MSP** Director, Epidemiology and Health Planning Kentucky Department for Public Health.
- Mara Rice, RN, on the need for a better measurement technique for the determination of catheter associated urinary tract infections.

**Patient Safety:**

- **Richard Wild, MD, MPH,** Chief Medical Officer CMS Atlanta Region

**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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