



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Dec. 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

To download slides and handouts go to

Check Back To the Website Over the Next Few Weeks to View Uploaded Videos of Selected Conference Presentations: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2015/index.html>



- Peter Eisler, USA Today Investigative Reporter on FDA Oversight of Medical Devices. https://youtu.be/NB3VVaO_GPs
- Daniella Nunez, Consumer Union's Patient Advocacy Initiatives. https://youtu.be/8_i1c0McZVk
- Kevin Kavanagh, MD, MS on Background for Ebola Preparedness. <https://youtu.be/PvrDKe2q8Os>
- Rice Leach, MD, MSHSA on Lexington Health Dept. Ebola Preparedness. <https://youtu.be/SBYEbvKsMow>

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The link is <https://twitter.com/healthwatchusa>

Healthcare Infections



Fact Sheet: Healthcare workers who are colonized or infected with MRSA

Australia NSW Government: [Download Fact Sheet.](#)

APIC Releases Ebola Preparedness Survey.

Download Survey: http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2015/2015-Handouts/Elders/APIC_Ebola_Survey_Results_November_2015.pdf

Some Antibiotics Worsen MRSA Infection Instead Of Killing The Bug

<http://www.ibtimes.com/some-antibiotics-worsen-mrsa-infection-instead-killing-bug-2182825>

Healthcare Quality



Got enough nurses? Nurse groups cite Kentucky case to support push for staffing ratio laws

Modern Healthcare: "In April, the CMS placed Hazard ARH in "immediate jeopardy" of losing Medicare funding due to failure to provide adequate staffing. That status was lifted in May."

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20151024/MAGAZINE/310249979>

Many Doctors Feel that Metal Allergy Is Not a Deal Breaker for Implants.

Medscape: Although 37.0% of respondents said they agree that a hypersensitivity reaction to metal could result in the failure of an implanted device requiring removal, another 30.5% said they do not agree that such an allergy would have this outcome." THIS IS AN IMPORTANT POINT THAT NEEDS TO HAVE CONSENSUS. <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/854152>

FDA: Fluoroquinolones Need Strong Warnings.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/150ecc8168d30079>

Healthcare Overuse

\$250M Dept. of Justice Settlement For Implantation & Billing of Cardiac Devices in Recent Heart Attack or Angioplasty Patients.

Lexington Herald Leader: "Among the Kentucky hospitals included in the settlements are Baptist Health Lexington, Saint Joseph Hospital and Saint Joseph Hospital East in Lexington, and Saint Joseph London. Baptist Health Louisville and Baptist Health Paducah were also among the Kentucky hospitals, the Justice Department said." <http://www.kentucky.com/living/health-and-medicine/article44667516.html>

FDA orders recall of 2,800 scope-washing machines, citing infection risk

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-fda-recall-scope-washers-20151113-story.html>

Healthcare Finance

Kentucky, Beacon for Health Law, Now a Lab for Its Retreat

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/28/us/kentucky-beacon-for-health-law-now-a-lab-for-its-retreat.html>

Who Turned My Blue State Red?

ProPublica: Jim Cauley, a Democratic Political consultant: "... in places like Pike County it's fueled,

more and more, by people's resentment over rising dependency they see among their own neighbors, even their own families. "It's Cousin Bobby — 'he's on Oxy and he's on the draw and we're paying for him,' "" <http://www.propublica.org/article/who-turned-my-blue-state-red>

Despite slow growth for other industries, healthcare leader pay continues to climb

FierceHealthFinance: "Average healthcare CEO compensation increased from \$2,552,529 to \$3,951,907..." <http://www.fiercehealthpayer.com/story/losses-lead-unitedhealth-rethink-role-aca-exchanges/2015-11-19>

United Healthcare May Exit the ACA

FierceHealthPayer: "UnitedHealth Group has revised its earnings expectations for 2015 because of the "continuing deterioration" of how its Affordable Care Act marketplace products are performing, and the insurer is re-evaluating its participation in the individual exchanges."

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/1512158488f7d8a4>

Judy Putnam: Medicare costs curbed but only for some?

Lansing State Journal: The president's proposed budget would have eliminated the outpatient facility fees which can be charged by hospital employed doctors and have driven up healthcare costs. "Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, Board chair of Health Watch USA, a Kentucky-based policy group, said that stopping the billing would be the right thing to do as the higher costs could cause some patients to forgo needed treatment. 'Simply because you can double a charge doesn't mean that's what should be done,' he said. " <http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/opinion/columnists/judy-putnam/2015/11/03/putnam-facility-fee/75099480/>

Budget agreement would cut some hospital-based outpatient payments

<http://www.fiercehealthfinance.com/story/budget-agreement-would-cut-some-hospital-based-outpatient-payments/2015-10-28>

Medicare Cuts Back Work of Auditors Probing Improper Payments to Hospitals

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/medicare-cuts-back-work-of-auditors-probing-improper-payments-to-hospitals-1446237519>

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