



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Dec. 22, 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

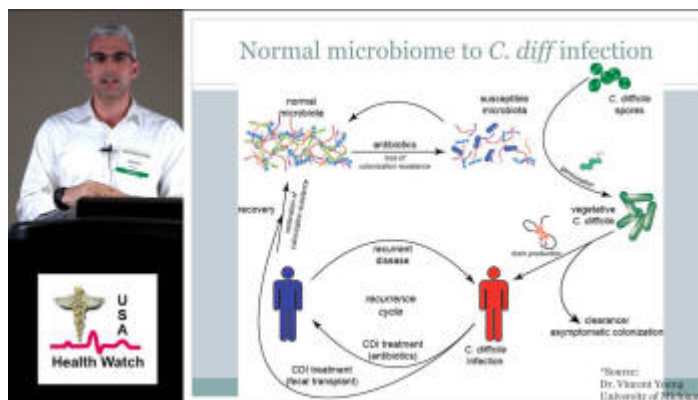
HW USA - Nov. 13, 2015 Patient Safety Conference

To view presentations and download slides & handouts go to:

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2015/index.html>

Newly Posted Presentations

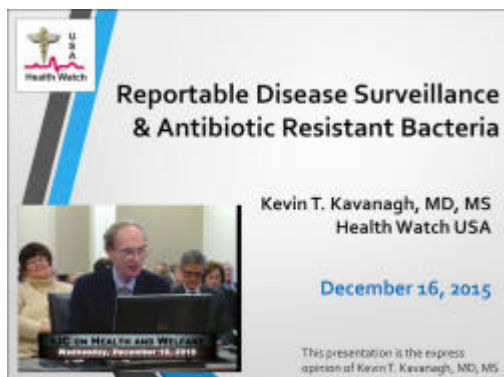
- Steven Tower, MD. Presenting on the epidemiology and mechanisms of failure of Total Hip Arthroplasty. <https://youtu.be/2oFCK9TWpw>
- Richard Wild, MD, JD. Presenting on CMS's value-based purchasing and healthcare system transformation. <https://youtu.be/WHEYLb-85IY>
- Daniel Saman, DrPH, MPH. Presenting on the epidemiology of C. Difficile infections (See picture on the right). <https://youtu.be/YVfYdCOXGh0>



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

Healthcare Infections



Health Watch USA - Testifies before Kentucky State Joint House and Senate Committee.

The presentation covered the topics of antibiotic resistant organisms, antibiotic over usage and the need for a coordinated approach to control the epidemic of antibiotic resistant bacteria. View Testimony:

<https://youtu.be/1EGG2cCI3P4> [Download Handout](#)

Fight against superbugs gets dramatic funding boost under congressional budget plan.

Washington Post: "The budget blueprint would provide at least \$375 million in new funds for the 2016 fiscal year to fight antibiotic-resistant bacteria, one of the biggest health threats facing the United States and the rest of the world."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2015/12/17/fight-against-superbugs-gets-dramatic-funding-boost-under-spending-plan/>

FDA: Fluoroquinolone Antibiotics Need Stronger Warnings

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/854067>

How To Avoid Superbugs.

A cheat sheet <http://parade.com/440733/melaniehaikencaringcomsenioreditor/superbug-cheat-sheet-how-to-stay-safer/>

Healthcare Quality



Health Watch USA submits comments on Maine's proposal to eliminate reporting of Nurse Staffing Measures to the State.

"The two most important categories of measures are outcome, which measure patient safety, and structure, which measures the available staff and working environment. Nurse-to-patient ratios have been shown to be highly related to patient mortality and the occurrence of patient harm.^{1, 2} Similarly, the ratio of registered nurses to

licensed practical nurses (skill mix) along with total nursing care hours has been shown to lower adverse events." <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/MaineComment-Structure-Measures.pdf>

Medicare Penalizes 758 Hospitals For Healthcare Associated Conditions.

NPR - Quotes HW USA's recent CAUTI Metric Article: "Another [paper published](#) in May in the *American Journal of Infection Control* suggested that while health experts recommend hospitals use urinary catheters as rarely as possible to limit the chance of infections, those same hospitals may look worse because the catheters are mostly used in the sickest patients, who are more prone to infections." <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/12/10/459243853/medicare-penalizes-758-hospitals-for-safety-incidents>

The OIG Will Validate Hospital Reported Quality Data to CMS.

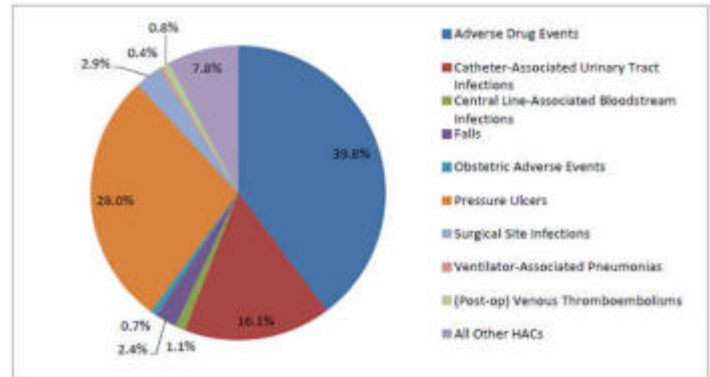
Slated for next year is a new OIG initiative to validate the quality of data submitted to CMS and the NHSN for use in public reporting and financial incentive programs (penalties and bonuses, i.e. value-based purchasing.)

<http://oig.hhs.gov/reports-and-publications/archives/workplan/2016/oig-work-plan-2016.pdf>

AHRQ Reports Dramatic Decrease in Hospital Acquired Conditions (Adverse Patient Events).

Overall there was a 17% reduction in Hospital Acquired Conditions as compared to 2010. The figure to the right shows improvement since 2011.

[Download Full Report](#)



The Commonwealth Fund Releases Its Latest State Scorecard.

Kentucky still scores low (#40) but is among the states which has showed the greatest improvement.

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2015/dec/aiming-higher-2015>

Full Report: http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/files/publications/fund-report/2015/dec/2015_scorecard_v5.pdf

Healthcare Overuse

Opioid Over Prescription by Physicians Involves a Large Segment, Not Just A Few Bad Apples.

NEJM: "As of 2013, however, these data argue that opioid prescribing is no more skewed than other prescribing, reflecting a widespread practice relatively indifferent to individual physicians, specialty or region. <http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2474400>

Healthcare Finance

The Profitability (Or Not) Of Harming Patients.

Forbes: "As another physician noted in a journal article that same year, "a tacit but potentially significant barrier" to hospital management support was "a widespread but unsubstantiated belief" that serious infections substantially raised reimbursement." <http://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelmillenson/2015/12/06/the-profitability-or-not-of-harming-patients/>

Future Health Watch USA Meetings:

Jan. 20, 2016: Dr. Mark Davis on "How Patients Can Make Their Surgery Safer"

Author of *Irresponsible: What Surgeons Won't Tell You and How to Protect Yourself*

<http://www.amazon.com/Irresponsible-What-Surgeons-Protect-Yourself-ebook/dp/B00ZEBGU36>

Feb. 17, 2015. Eili Klein., PhD from the CDDEP on Antibiotic Stewardship and Reportable Disease

Surveillance. http://www.cddep.org/profile/eili_klein#sthash.uPyzLrjz.dpbs

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