



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

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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

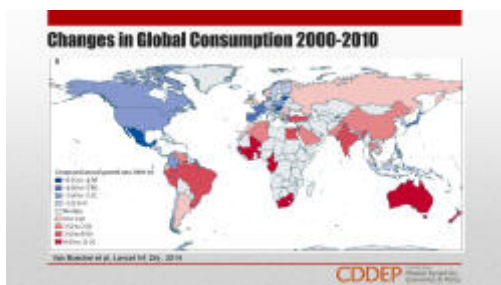
Healthcare Infections

Authors' Response to Letter Regarding "Questionable validity of the catheter-associated urinary tract infection metric used for value-based purchasing"

AJIC: Author's response to CDC's letter regarding changes in metrics. "(Halpin et al) describes the many institutions that have implemented initiatives in the prevention of Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTIs) but paradoxically the CDC NHSN data indicates the rates of CAUTIs are not decreasing. Clearly, either there are problems with the metric and/or data; or gains have not taken place. The 2014 CAUTI data is currently available and the AHRQ metric indicates there are 7.6 CAUTI infections per 1000 discharges, a 38% decrease over the 2010 baseline. The CDC/NHSN metric indicates there is a 5% increase in CAUTIs based on the average hospital performance (N=2268, acquisition dates 1/1/2014 to 12/31/2014) compared to a 2009 baseline. This is a large discrepancy in findings."

<http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553%2815%2901229-8/abstract>

Download Letter, Creative Commons License: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Publications/HW-USA-Publications.htm>



Health Watch USA Meeting on the Economics of Antibiotic Resistant Organisms.

"Dr. Eili Klein from the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy discusses the epidemiology, economics and preventive strategies of antibiotic resistant organisms." [Click on picture to enlarge.](#)

<https://youtu.be/Wo-OB-d25f0>

Screening of nursing home residents for colonization with carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)

"...fecal carriage of carbapenem-resistant or carbapenemase-producing gram-negative bacteria in 4.6% of nursing home patients admitted to 2 acute care hospitals."

<http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553%2815%2900992-X/abstract>

Colistin resistance in CPE (Bacteria which Produce Carbapenem Deactivating Enzyme): an emerging threat

<http://reflectionsipc.com/2016/02/12/colistin-resistance-in-cpe-an-emerging-threat/>

News About Superbugs Resistant To All Antibiotics Worsens

"While Zika and the new Lyme bacteria are scary, these antibiotic-resistant bacteria will have a far

wider global impact. Zika and Lyme will cause illness and possibly birth defects, but these newly combined colistin and carbapenem resistant bacteria will cause thousands of otherwise needless deaths."

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/judystone/2016/02/13/news-about-superbugs-resistant-to-all-antibiotics-worsens/#39d67634cdd6>

A Coordinated Approach to Control Drug Resistant Organisms is needed

" With moderate control measures, coordinated regional control resulted in 21.3% more averted cases (n = 408) than did uncoordinated control at year 5. "

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26861238>

Is it time to ditch CHG bathing in ICUs and get back to basic infection control?

HAI Controversies: "... when we no longer have hand hygiene compliance, gowns and gloves and when the foundation of infection control is based on antibiotics like linezolid, CHG and mupirocin, what will we do when the foundation begins to crumble? Will we even notice the crumbling or will we stick our heads in the sand and ignore it?"

<http://haicontroversies.blogspot.com/2016/02/is-it-time-to-ditch-chg-bathing-in-icus.html>

Are Antibacterial Soaps Safe?

"The FDA and some scientists are now concerned that antibacterial chemicals like triclosan, which linger in the environment and can be absorbed in the body, are also contributing to antibiotic resistance. " <http://www.wsj.com/articles/are-antibacterial-soaps-safe-1455592023>

Healthcare Quality

Medical Errors Still All Too Common -- Hartland Health Research Institute

"As summarized (in the pictures below), every four seconds, one patient is harmed in the U.S. due to a preventable mistake, meaning the mistake could have been avoided. During the 25-minute average commute time to work in this country, 417 patients are harmed, or about one in every four hospital admissions." [Click on pictures to enlarge](http://hhri.net/estimated-85k-harmed-in-iowa-due-to-medical-errorsmeasuring-what-matters-every-six-minutes/)

<http://hhri.net/estimated-85k-harmed-in-iowa-due-to-medical-errorsmeasuring-what-matters-every-six-minutes/>



Patient Outcomes Measurement

NEJM: "Yet process measurement has had limited effect on value. Such measures receive little attention from patients, who are interested in results. Process measures don't truly differentiate among providers, so incentives for improvement are limited. Nor does improving process compliance from 95% to 98% matter much for outcomes."

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMp1511701>

Insurers and Medicare Agree on Measures Tracking Doctor's Quality

"The federal government and the insurance industry released on Tuesday an initial set of measures of physician performance that they hope will reduce the glut of conflicting metrics doctors now must report."

http://khn.org/news/insurers-and-medicare-agree-on-measures-tracking-doctors-quality/?utm_campaign=KHN%3A+Topic-based

Can Electronic Health Records Prevent Harm to Patients?

Journal of Patient Safety: "(The study) found that cardiovascular, surgery, and pneumonia patients whose complete treatment was captured in a fully electronic EHR were between 17 and 30 percent less likely to experience in-hospital adverse events."

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26854418>

Medical Devices

The FDA is requiring more extensive testing for Metal-on-Metal Hip Implants.

These implants have been shown to be at a higher risk for adverse events and failure. Some expect this regulation may effectively take these types of implants off the U.S. market. "The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is issuing a final order to require the filing of a premarket approval application (PMA) or a notice of completion of a product development protocol (PDP) for the hip joint metal/metal semi-constrained, with a cemented acetabular component, prosthesis; and hip joint metal/metal semi-constrained, with an uncemented acetabular component, prosthesis."

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/02/18/2016-03331/effective-date-of-requirement-for-premarket-approval-for-total-metal-on-metal-semi-constrained-hip>

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