



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Mar. 6, 2016

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

C. Diff: Deadly Infection on the Rise in U.S. Hospitals

The infection, called C. diff (Clostridium difficile) sickened 101,074 hospital patients in 2014, the most recent data available, according to a March report from the CDC. Other research shows that overall about 450,000 people a year, inside and out of hospitals, are sickened by the infection, and it contributes to the death of about 29,000 people.

<http://www.consumerreports.org/doctors-hospitals/c-diff-deadly-infection-on-rise-us-hospitals/>

Making Health Care Safer: Protect patients from antibiotic resistance

CDC Vital Signs reports on the prevention of antibiotic resistant bacteria and healthcare acquired infections. Providers are encouraged to isolate "when appropriate", follow recommendations and correctly prescribe antibiotics. [Download Report](#)

CDC Letter & Authors' Response to Letter Regarding "Questionable validity of the catheter-associated urinary tract infection metric used for value-based purchasing" Now Available FREE ACCESS !!!

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 Both Letters and PDF: <http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553%2815%2901229-8/pdf>



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.](#)

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

Effectiveness of Chlorhexidine Wipes for the Prevention of Multidrug-Resistant Bacterial Colonization and Hospital-Acquired Infections in Intensive Care Unit Patients: A Randomized Trial in Thailand

This was a small study, but the chlorhexidine group did worse: "Favorable events at day 14 were observed in 34.8% of patients in the control group and 28.6% in the chlorhexidine group (P=.79). CONCLUSION The effectiveness of 2% chlorhexidine-impregnated washcloths for the prevention of MDR gram-negative bacteria colonization and hospital-acquired infection in adult patients in ICU was not proven." <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26894621>

Prevalence of Probiotic Use Among Inpatients: A Descriptive Study of 145 U.S. Hospitals

"Meaning, clinicians may be prescribing probiotics in an attempt to help their patients suffering from *C.difficile*, often associated with a disrupted or damaged microbiome." <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26822808>

Healthcare Quality

PATIENT SAFETY Hospitals Face Challenges Implementing Evidence - Based Practices

Officials from selected hospitals identified the following challenges in implementing patient safety practices:

- 1) Obtaining data to identify adverse events in their own hospitals
- 2) Determining which patient safety practices should be implemented.
- 3) Ensuring that staff consistently implement the practices over time.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/675390.pdf>

Supreme Court Strikes At States' Efforts On Health Care Transparency

"The U.S. Supreme Court dealt a blow Tuesday to nascent efforts to track the quality and cost of health care, ruling that a 1974 law precludes states from requiring that every health care claim involving their residents be submitted to a massive database."

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/03/02/468756393/supreme-court-strikes-at-states-efforts-on-health-care-transparency>

Senators Push to Keep Seniors From Doctor Shopping for Opioids

"Bipartisan legislation aimed at blocking Medicare recipients from shopping for doctors and pharmacists likely to prescribe opioids could help address the national prescription drug abuse epidemic, Senate Finance Committee Democrats said at a hearing Tuesday."

http://www.rollcall.com/news/senators_push_to_keep_seniors_from_doctor_shopping_for_opioids-246025-1.html

Many Dislike Health Care System But Are Pleased With Their Own Care

".. a poll conducted by NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health shows that only one-third of Americans say the health care they receive is "excellent." Even fewer people are impressed with the system as a whole."

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/02/29/468244777/many-dislike-health-care>

[system-but-are-pleased-with-their-own-care](#)

AHRQ Stops Development of MONAHRQ

AHRQ stops development of their website presentation software which states and other organizations used to provide quality information to the public.

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USAHRQ/bulletins/138a4d8>

Consumer Union Removes the Paywall From Their Hospital Ranking Data

Below are the search results for Kentucky Hospitals.

<http://www.consumerreports.org/health/doctors-hospitals/hospital-ratings/ratings/search-results.htm?state=KY>

Medical Devices

Olympus to Pay \$646M to DOJ Over Bribery Scandal in Largest-Ever Medical Device Settlement

<http://www.fiercemedicaldevices.com/story/olympus-fork-over-646m-doj-over-bribery-scandal-largest-ever-medical-device/2016-03-02>

FDA Mandates New Warnings on Essure Contraceptive Devices

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/29/health/fda-essure-birth-control-device/>

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