



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

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Apr. 10, 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



### Presidential Council on Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria - Health Watch USA's Public Comments.

Mar. 2016, Day 1: "One of the major approaches which institutions are utilizing to control multi-resistant organisms is universal daily Chlorhexidine Bathing. But there are concerns with the development of resistance. There are also concerns regarding

chlorhexidine effectiveness. Much of the research has integrity problems. We would encourage the committee to reexamine the use of surveillance as exemplified by last meeting's VA system's presentation on achieving a dramatic reduction in MRSA infections in a very high risk population. Finally, I again would call upon the members of the CARB Committee to disclose their conflicts of interest." [View Comment](#)

View YouTube Audio Track <https://youtu.be/-IB1qF1qP48>

Mar 2016, Day 2: Comments stressed the importance of the committee to devise strategies to prevent patient to patient transmission.

View YouTube Audio Track <https://youtu.be/iG1aQZftqb0>

On Sep. 29, 2015. Health Watch USA also submitted written comments to the Council which called for transparency of conflicts-of-interest and the setting of detailed and firm standards. [View Comment](#)

### Deadly superbugs from hospitals get stronger in the sewers and could end up in the Pacific Ocean

The virtually untreatable superbug CRE has been found in a LA Sewage Treatment Plant.

LA Times: "But a growing number of studies show sewage plants can't kill the superbugs. Instead the facilities serve as "a luxury hotel" for drug-resistant bacteria, a place where they thrive and grow stronger, said Pedro Alvarez, a professor of environmental engineering at Rice University, one of the scientists studying the problem." <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-superbug-sewers-20160307-story.html>



## Healthcare Quality

### **Nearly a quarter of nurses working in Michigan said they're aware of a patient dying because of inadequate staffing**

Safe Patient Standard: "In Michigan, a recent survey of nurses found that nearly a quarter of nurses were aware of a patient dying due to inadequate staffing. In Massachusetts, one in four registered nurses reported patient deaths are directly attributable to patient staffing. What's more, 85 percent of those nurses surveyed said patient care was suffering due to short staffing by hospitals."

<http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2016/03/23/nurses-poll-patients-die-staffing/82160112/>

<http://safepatientstandard.com/by-the-numbers-nurses-are-being-understaffed-by-hospitals/>

### **Amid Public Feuds, A Venerated Medical Journal (New England Journal of Medicine) Finds Itself Under Attack**

ProPublica: "Amid Public Feuds, A Venerated Medical Journal Finds Itself Under Attack. the (New England Journal of Medicine) and its top editor, critics say, have resisted correcting errors and lag behind others in an industry-wide push for more openness in medical research."

<https://www.propublica.org/article/amid-public-feuds-a-venerated-medical-journal-finds-itself-under-attack>

This issue also evolves conflict of interest and research integrity. Recently Health Watch USA published a manuscript on infectious disease research integrity. Two of the articles which we felt had significant problems but still had a large impact on infectious disease policy were the REDUCE MRSA and STAR\*ICU Studies. Both studies were published in the New England Journal of Medicine. [http://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Abstract/publishahead/A\\_Perspective\\_on\\_the\\_Principles\\_of\\_Integrity\\_in.99603.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Abstract/publishahead/A_Perspective_on_the_Principles_of_Integrity_in.99603.aspx)

Download PDF: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Publications/PDF-Downloads/20160324-JPS-15-166-ResearchIntegrity-Kavanagh.pdf>

### **Now There's Proof: Docs Who Get Company Cash Tend to Prescribe More Brand-Name Meds**

<https://www.propublica.org/article/doctors-who-take-company-cash-tend-to-prescribe-more-brand-name-drugs>

### **Researchers say patients should tell doctors every medications they're taking.**

"1 in 6 Seniors Takes Dangerous Combos of Meds, Supplements: Study"

<http://healthfinder.gov/News/Article.aspx?id=709168>

### **When a surgeon should just say 'I'm sorry'**

CNN: "The basic human desire to hear "I'm sorry" and an explanation of what went wrong -- whether in the operating room or elsewhere -- is behind a movement to encourage hospitals and doctors to move away from the traditional "deny and defend" approach, to "acknowledge and apologize."

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/24/health/surgeons-im-sorry/>

## **How public must science be? Union of Concerned Scientists would limit disclosures**

Boston Globe "It's just gibberish to say these laws stifle research," said David Cuillier, Director of the University of Arizona School of Journalism and a member of the Society of Professional Journalists's freedom of information committee. "These are government scientists funded by taxpayers, and the public is entitled to see what they're working on."

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2016/03/19/union-concerned-scientists-seeks-shield-scientists-from-public-scrutiny/0c0BXI4MLAuyI35lZqTqL/story.html>

## **Senate committee looks at policies on surgeons performing more than one surgery at once**

Pittsburg Post-Gazette: Federal officials have asked 20 U.S. hospitals and health systems to spell out their practices and policies concerning "concurrent surgeries" where a surgeon performs operations on two or more patients at the same time."

<http://www.post-gazette.com/business/healthcare-business/2016/03/28/Senate-committee-looks-at-hospital-policies-regarding-concurrent-surgeries/stories/201603270074>

## **Medical Devices**

### **Two More Hospitals Reporting Superbug CRE On Endoscopes**

NBC News: "A routine monitoring of cultures done at Hartford Hospital identified an increase in extended spectrum Beta-lactamase E. coli (ESBL), a drug resistant version of E. coli. After further review, we determined that this increase may have been associated with having the endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) procedure," the hospital's chief medical officer Dr. Rocco Orlando said in a statement. "

<http://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/two-more-hospitals-report-superbugs-endoscopes-n317591>



### **Emails reveal Olympus boosted duodenoscope prices, profited from superbug crisis**

"After the superbug outbreak linked to its scopes, it then sought to profiteer off of the supply crisis its bad equipment created — jacking up prices for urgently needed replacement scopes.

" <https://www.dotmed.com/news/story/29976>

### **Endoscope Maker Olympus Agrees To \$646 Million Settlement Over Kickbacks**

"Medical device maker Olympus Corp., already under federal investigation for its role in superbug outbreaks, has agreed to pay \$646 million to resolve criminal and civil probes into illegal kickbacks and bribes to doctors and hospitals."

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/03/02/468875852/endoscope-maker-olympus-agrees-to-646-million-settlement-over-kickbacks>

## Rice Leach, MD, MPH Died Friday April 1, 2016.

"Dr. Rice Cowan Leach, of Frankfort, and the Commissioner of Health of the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, died Friday, April 1, 2016, at the Hospice Care Center at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington following a battle with cancer. He was 75.

" Dr. Leach was a passionate and unyielding defender of patient safety and public health and was the Commissioner of Health for the State of Kentucky from 1992 to 2004. [Read Full Obituary](#) [Read Short Resume](#)

**Dr. Leach presented on Lexington's Response to the Ebola Epidemic at HW USA's 2016 conference:**

To view his presentation go

to: <https://youtu.be/SBYEbvKsMow> [Presentation Slides](#)



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## Next Health Watch USA Meeting -- April 20th, 2016



Speaker: Deena Sowa McCollum, BSN, RN The Importance of High Quality Nursing Care

In December 2014, Deena's Dad died as a result of 3 delays in care and a misdiagnosis. After his death and almost 10 years in leadership positions, Deena returned to bedside nursing. "I needed to understand why there were so many missed opportunities in my Dad's care. Then educate patients and family members on the importance of their role in being safe." Deena obtained her Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Deena was among Texas Healthcare Association's Top 10 Directors of Nurses for Long Term Care in 2008, 2009. More recently, Deena has been a contributing writer

for Nursecode.com and guest appearances on Surviving Healthcare Today and Advocacy Heals You radio talk shows.

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