



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org May. 1, 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

"Antimicrobial resistance to antibiotics will present a greater danger to humankind than cancer by the middle of the century unless world leaders agree international action to tackle the threat, according to **George Osborne (UK Chancellor)**."

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/apr/14/antimicrobial-resistance-greater-threat-cancer-2050-george-osborne>

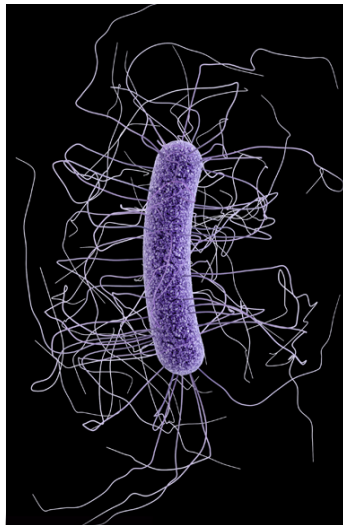


Are Hospitals Not Diagnosing Patients for Fear of Having a CMS Penalty Levied?

New York Times: " " It's not only the magnitude of the penalty, but the publicity that comes out of being penalized," said Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, a patient safety advocate from Kentucky."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/21/health/how-medicare-penalizes-hospitals-for-being-too-careful.html>

<http://khn.org/news/at-teaching-hospitals-aggressive-screening-may-lead-to-medicare-penalties/>



Screening and Isolation of C. Difficile Carriers (The deadly G.I. Superbug)

"Among the 7,599 patients who were screened, 368 (4.8 percent) were identified as C. difficile carriers and placed under isolation. During the intervention, the incidence rate of HA-CDI decreased by more than 50 percent...."

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/04/160425141547.htm>

The Microbiome is important:

-- Oral bacterial linked to a higher risk of pancreatic cancer.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2016/04/20/these-oral-bacteria-might-increase-your-chances-of-getting-pancreatic-cancer/>

Proposed CMS rule includes antibiotic prescribing measure, open for public comment

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/04/27/2016-09120/medicare-program-hospital-inpatient-prospective-payment-systems-for-acute-care-hospitals-and-the>

Healthcare Quality

New Leapfrog Hospital Report Card Released.

Leapfrog estimates there are over 200,000 avoidable patient deaths each year in U.S. Hospitals 50% higher in hospitals ranked D and F.

<http://www.hospitalsafetyscore.org/about-us/newsroom/display/442022>

Hospital Star Ratings from CMS Do Correlate with Lower Risk of Dying and Being Readmitted Back Into the Hospital

<http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2513630>

Your Biggest C-Section Risk Maybe Your Hospital

Consumer Reports: "The target C-section rate for those births, set by the Department of Health and Human Services, is 23.9 percent or less. That's 10 percent less than the rate for such births in 2007, which the government uses as a baseline from which to improve."

Kentucky is tied with Florida for the highest rate of any state in the United States = 32%,

<http://www.consumerreports.org/doctors-hospitals/your-biggest-c-section-risk-may-be-your-hospital/>

Surgeons must tell patients of double-booked surgeries, new guidelines say

"The world's largest surgeons' organization (American College of Surgeons) has issued its first-ever guidelines for surgeons managing simultaneous operations, saying the controversial practice is broadly permissible, within limits, but that "the patient needs to be informed" whenever a doctor runs more than one operating room at a time."

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2016/04/13/surgery/Jn7Lb0Hq3VUGeZGBgjiw0M/story.html>

Inappropriate Manipulation of Figures in Research Journals is More Widespread Than Once Thought.

Biology: "Overall, 3.8% of published papers contained problematic figures, with at least half exhibiting features suggestive of deliberate

manipulation.". <http://biorxiv.org/content/early/2016/04/20/049452>

Patient Advocates Decry Lapses in Reporting

Advocates recently called on the NIH (National Institutes of Health) to correct its "failure to demand accountability" from institutions that flout a federal law requiring public posting of outcomes of many clinical trials."

<https://www.statnews.com/2016/04/14/patient-advocates-clinical-trials>

One in 25 Papers Found to Have inappropriate Manipulation of Images

Retraction Watch <http://retractionwatch.com/2016/04/19/one-in-25-papers-contains-inappropriately-duplicated-images-screen-finds/>

Medical Devices



More Superbug CRE Infections from Endoscopes

"As many as 350 patients at 41 medical facilities in the U.S. and worldwide were infected or exposed to tainted gastrointestinal scopes from Jan. 1, 2010, to Oct. 31, 2015, according to the Food and Drug Administration."

<http://www.wcvb.com/health/more-deadly-superbug-infections-from-scopes/39053650>

Medtronic Lost Study (Now Found) - Places patients at risk

In a study on Infuse, a medical device, which places bone morphogenic protein to help fuse disks in the back and spine: "The project eventually covered the medical records of 3,647 patients at 26 sites — 13 times as many Infuse patients as the studies that led to FDA approval of Infuse a few years before. Medtronic employees examined every patient record they received, Kuntz said. The charts showed many good outcomes, but more than 1,000 patient complications, some of them serious"

www.startribune.com/question-of-risk-medtronic-s-lost-Infuse-study/372957441/?from-mobile=true

Healthcare Finances

Healthcare Rendition

"Debt collector files 1,067 lawsuits against SSM Health patients"

www.beckershospitalreview.com/legal-regulatory-issues/debt-collector-files-1-078-lawsuits-against-ssm-health-patients.html



Wide Variation in Healthcare Prices

NPR: "That's because the average price for a knee replacement in the Arizona city is \$21,976, about \$38,000 less than it would in Sacramento, Calif. That's according to a report issued Wednesday by the Health Care Cost Institute."

<http://www.healthcostinstitute.org/national-chartbook-health-care-prices-2015>

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/04/27/475880565/that-surgery-might-cost-you-a-lot-less-in-another-town>

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