



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org May 22, 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

Tackling Drug-Resistant Infections Globally

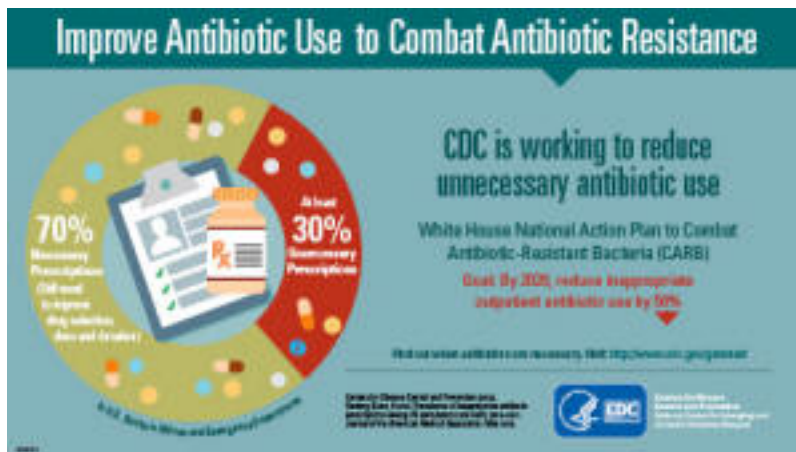
Final Report and Recommendations - UK Government and Wellcome Trust.

"The magnitude of the problem is now accepted. We estimate that by 2050, 10 million lives a year and a cumulative 100 trillion USD of economic output are at risk due to the rise of drug resistant infections if we do not find proactive solutions now to slow down the rise of drug resistance. Even today, 700,000 people die of resistant infections every year. Antibiotics are a special category of antimicrobial drugs that underpin modern medicine as we know it: if they lose their effectiveness, key medical procedures (such as gut surgery, caesarean sections, joint replacements, and treatments that depress the immune system, such as chemotherapy for cancer) could become too dangerous to perform. Most of the direct and much of the indirect impact of AMR will fall on low and middle-income countries." [Download Report](#)

Recommendation #2 in the United Kingdom's Report: "Improved hygiene and prevent the spread of infections" [Download Report](#)

"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**."

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



30% of Antibiotics in the United States are Prescribed Unnecessarily

JAMA: "In the United States in 2010-2011, there was an estimated annual antibiotic prescription rate per 1000 population of 506, but only an estimated 353 antibiotic prescriptions were likely appropriate, supporting the need for establishing a goal for outpatient antibiotic stewardship."

[Click on Picture To Enlarge](#)

<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2518263>

CRE Carriers Found in Over 5% of Patients Hospitalized in Washington, DC.

A total of 1036 patients were tested for CRE, 5.1% were positive for CRE. [Download Study](http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news/2016/05/03/exclusive-first-ever-study-of-superbugs-in-d-c.html)
<http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news/2016/05/03/exclusive-first-ever-study-of-superbugs-in-d-c.html>



Healthcare Finances



Healthcare Rendition. Non-Profit Hospitals are Becoming an Oxymoron - Lexington Herald Leader Op-Ed

Healthcare Rendition: No one should lose a farm or a home because of a catastrophic illness. When this happens, at least one non-profit appears to have come up with a PR solution by adapting the hard-nosed tactic of rendition, which governments have used to outsource torture. Just sell part of your health-care services to a for-profit company, which then sells the bills owed to an aggressive collection company.

<http://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article78950937.html>

Some Non-Profit Hospitals are Making the Most Money.

"Seven of the top 10 most profitable hospitals in the United States are nonprofit facilities that each netted more than \$150 million from caring for patients in 2013, according to a study published Monday."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2016/05/02/these-hospitals-make-the-most-money-off-patients-and-theyre-mostly-nonprofits/>

Healthcare Uninsured Now in the Single Digits in the United States.

The Hill: The uninsured rate fell to 9.1 percent in 2015, a record low, according to a new survey. "<http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/280131-uninsured-rate-fell-to-record-low-in-2015-under-obamacare>

Federal District Court, Struck Down Subsidies.

Is this major win for the Republicans actually the first step to single payer?

Washington Post: "In this dispute, the House claims that subsidies the executive branch is paying to insurance companies to provide health insurance for low-income individuals have not been properly appropriated by Congress."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/appeal-house-v-burwell/2015/10/04/d8eec2d6-693f-11e5-9ef3-fde182507eac_story.html

Insurance Mergers Are Bad For Consumers

FierceHealthPayer: "Of particular concern, according to the panelists, are the two major pending health insurer mergers--[Aetna-Humana](#) and [Anthem-Cigna](#)--which would whittle the five largest for-profit payers down to three."

<http://www.fiercehealthpayer.com/story/aha16-experts-say-insurer-mergers-bad-providers-consumers/2016-05-03>

Healthcare Quality



The Public Becoming Aware of the Impact and Problems With Research Integrity.

John Oliver (HBO) on Scientific Integrity. There is a lot of truth in this satire, please take time to view it: <https://youtu.be/0Rnq1NpHdmw> via @YouTube

Joining Others, John Hopkins reports Medical Errors Cause 250,000 Deaths each year in the United States.

Confirming the figure recently released by the Leapfrog Group ([see report](#)) that medical errors cause over 200,000 deaths each year in the United States. John Hopkins estimated that at least 250,000 deaths from medical infections occur each year.

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/05/03/476636183/death-certificates-undercount-toll-of-medical-errors>

In 2013, Dr. John James published in the Journal of Patient Safety an estimate of between 210,000 to over 400,000 deaths each year.

http://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Fulltext/2013/09000/A_New_Evidence_based_Estimate_of_Patient_Harms.2.aspx

Three Separate Reports Find That Medical Errors are The Third Leading Cause of Death (see above).

John Hopkin's doctors calls For CDC To Officially List Medical Errors As The Third Leading Cause of Death. <https://www.propublica.org/article/study-urges-cdc-to-revise-count-of-deaths-from-medical-error>

State of California found lapses in infection control at UCLA and Cedars-Sinai.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-infections-ucla-cedars-hospitals-20160515-snap-story.html>

UCLA Now Posting Drug Company Documents Along With Tobacco Documents.

<https://www.industrydocumentslibrary.ucsf.edu/drug/>

An Unintended Side Effect of Transparency

Drug seekers using physician drug prescription data to target easy marks.

<https://www.propublica.org/article/an-unintended-side-effect-of-transparency>

United Healthcare Displaying Patient Doctor Satisfaction Scores on Their Website.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/862829>

Medical Devices



Head of the FDA is Concerned With The Cures Bill

FDA Commissioner Robert Califf May 5 said that if the 21st Century Cures legislation "is not carefully crafted it could pose a significant risk" for the agency and patients because it could cause drugs and devices to be approved too quickly. <http://www.bna.com/fda-head-cites-b57982070805/>

Hospitals to shift CMS hip, knee implant cost pressure to medical device makers: Report

FierceMedical Devices: "Medical device makers, not hospitals, will get squeezed in the coming years as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) implements its value-based pricing scheme for hip and knee implant procedures."

<http://www.fiercemedicaldevices.com/story/hospitals-shift-cms-hip-knee-implant-cost-pressure-medical-device-makers-re/2016-05-06>

Metal-on-Metal wear (1,000,000)

Systematic Literature Review of 2318 publications we found 25 cases of cobaltism from MoM wear

Periprosthetic Metallosis: Moderate
Pseudotumors: Common but sometimes asymptomatic
Hypercobaltemia: Moderate to Severe 16-398 ppb
Cobaltism: Tremor, Disordered Mood and Sleep, Cognitive Dysfunction, Anorexia, Patchy Rulnopathy, Cardiomyopathy

Dartmouth Biomedical Engineering Center

Health Watch USA Fall Conference -- Nov. 4th, 2016

Four Points Sheraton, Lexington, KY

The conference's theme this year is the reliability of research and protocols for infectious disease, medical device safety and patient safety.

If you would like to submit a 25 min presentation on a topic related to patient safety please send a 250 word abstract to healthwatchusa@gmail.com

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