



Health Watch USAsm

Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org June 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

HW USA Blog -- Full Disclosure of Medical Errors



"From 1987 to early 2003, while I was chief of staff at the Lexington, KY VA Medical Center, we instituted a policy of full disclosure and fair negotiated compensation to anyone who had been injured by a medical error. No discretion was allowed and no case was too big or too small. It started without advance planning or training. We just did what was right and kept the patient at the center and didn't stop until the

patient was made whole (to the extent possible)."

-- Read more at www.healthwatchusa.info

Healthcare Infections

The 14 Top Superbugs in the United States Even yeast can be deadly if resistance develops

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/these-are-the-top-superbug-threats-in-the-us/2016/06/06/d0df6ca4-29b9-11e6-a3c4-0724e8e24f3f_gallery.html

Picking Up an Infection in the Hospital

"... hospital-borne MRSA (decreased in U.S. hospitals) by 13 percent, according to the C.D.C." "Infection rates have dropped even more steeply in Britain, where total MRSA reduction from 2004 is now 80 percent, according to Dr. Mark Wilcox, the head of medical microbiology at Leeds Teaching Hospitals..." "Leeds Hospital used to see 15 to 25 MRSA infections per month; now it gets five per year, he said."

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2016/05/11/picking-up-an-infection-in-the-hospital/>

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>

Researchers Discover Dangerous Bacteria in Pennsylvania Resistant to All Antibiotics

Washington Post: "For the first time, researchers have found a person in the United States carrying a deadly bacteria with a gene that makes it resistant to antibiotics of last resort, an alarming development that the top U.S. public health official said could mean "the end of the road" for antibiotics."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2016/05/26/the-superbug-that-doctors-have-been-dreading-just-reached-the-u-s/>

This dangerous bacterial enzyme was isolated in the urine of a woman in the United States and in a pig on a farm in Pennsylvania. The enzyme breaks down the antibiotic of last resort "Colistin".

Colistin is not used in agriculture in the United States. It is however used in China.

<http://phenomena.nationalgeographic.com/2015/11/21/mcr-gene-colistin/>

However, a similar antibiotic which could also stimulate the development of the gene is polymixin b. This drug is found in almost everyone's medicine cabinet in the form of Polysporin Ointment and Triple Antibiotic Ointment.

Here is the initial response from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

Proactive Efforts by U.S. Federal Agencies Enable Early Detection of New Antibiotic Resistance:

"Colistin is rarely used in human medicine compared to other antibiotics. It is often used to treat multi-drug resistant infections and its use is increasing. It is not used in animals in this country. As such, the new detection underscores the urgent need for more research in this area, and that's why the President's 2017 budget request also calls for Congress to fund the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative at its full level, allowing our nation's best and brightest scientists to help the NARMS partners get ahead of the fight to keep antibiotics effective and available. Earlier this month, USDA announced that it is seeking applications for \$6 million in research funding to address antibiotic resistance through this program, but currently USDA must leave nine in ten applications for AFRI grants unfunded, keeping meaningful projects off the table."

<http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2016/05/26/early-detection-new-antibiotic-resistance.html>

A Program to Prevent Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection in Acute Care

A national prevention program appears to reduce catheter use and catheter-associated UTI rates in non-ICUs. (Funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.)

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1504906>



Do We Need To Screen For The Deadly Superbug CRE?

"However, put another way, around half of CPE (Carbapenem Producing Enzyme Bacteria) carriers would be missed at the time of admission if universal screening in only these high-risk specialties was performed."

<https://reflectionsipc.com/2016/06/03/balancing-risk-and-resource-for-cpe-screening/>

CDC Raises Alarm to Problem with Azithromycin Prescribing in Children.

Zithromax or Z-Pac is easy to take, just a few doses. Thus, less fighting with children, but there are also risks of promoting the development of antibiotic resistance.

<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2521959>

Healthcare Finances



Non-Profit Finances Now Online -- Some are Very Profitable. <http://990finder.foundationcenter.org/Default.aspx>

Hospital CEO Salaries:

<http://www.lohud.com/story/news/investigations/2016/06/02/new-york-hospital-payouts/85027532/>

Nonprofit Hospital Stops Suing So Many Poor Patients: Will Others Follow?

<https://www.propublica.org/article/nonprofit-hospital-stops-suing-so-many-poor-patients-will-others-follow>

John Oliver: Hospital Debt and Debt Buyers (HBO)

Healthcare Rendition ??

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxUAntt1z2c>

HW USA Editorial on Non-Profit Hospital Profitability

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

Commentary: Insurance industry not to blame for rising premiums

"Now, take a look at the amount of money that goes to your health insurance company. This number sits at a historic low of 10 percent. While it's commonplace for government to point the finger at insurance companies for rising health care costs, it's important to note that we are a small (and shrinking) part of the bill."

-- However, what is not stated is that insurance company's medical loss ratio is fixed. One of the ways to increase the dollar amount of profit is to buy more expensive healthcare so that premiums can be raised.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/albany/news/2016/05/23/insurance-industry-not-to-blame-for-medical-costs.html>

Some Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) Denied Tax Exemption

Accountable Care Organizations were the Affordable Care Act's hope of developing new, high quality and cost-efficient ways of delivering healthcare.

FierceHealthcareFinance: "IRS rules arrangement isn't charitable"

HW USA has warned about this occurrence.

www.fiercehealthfinance.com/story/aco-denied-exemption-over-commercially-insured-patients/2016-05-31

Health Watch USA was concerned about the regulations setting up ACOs which set up the governance for the ACO similar to for-profit organizations and the ACO's fiduciary (loyalty) responsibility is to the ACO not the community. Download the comment sent by HW USA and a number of other patient advocates:

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/ACO-Berwick-11b.pdf>

Healthcare Quality



Nursing Cuts Makes University of Louisville Hospital Unsafe

"Dr. J. David Richardson, vice chair of surgery and the current president of the American College of Surgeons, said the public hospital has "never been worse in the 34 years that I have been heavily involved with it." "

<http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2016/06/08/surgeon-cuts-make-u-l-hospital-unsafe/85603994/>

AHRQ 2016 Medical Office User Comparative Database Report

"Work Pressure and Pace had the lowest average percent positive response (50%), which measures whether enough staff and providers are available to handle the office patient load and the pace of work in the office."

<http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/patientsafetyculture/medical-office/mo-reports.html>

Unpaid, stressed, and confused: patients are the health care system's free labor

Are patients asked to do too much in the most expensive healthcare system in the world?

<http://www.vox.com/2016/6/1/11712776/healthcare-footprint>

Medical Devices



11 deaths at Huntington Hospital among patients infected by dirty scopes, city report says

"Many of those patients were already severely ill, including some with cancer. Health officials said that only one of the 11 death certificates listed the bacteria as the cause. It was not clear if infection was a factor in any of the other deaths." <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-huntington-hospital-scopes-20160601-snap-story.html>

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

Health Watch USA Meeting, June 15, 2016 -- Adobe Connect

Speaker: Jim Bailey, MD will discuss his novel, "The End of Healing", and talk about "Why healthcare may be hazardous for your health".

When: June 15, 2016 at 7:00 PM Eastern Time.

Where: Everywhere over Adobe Connect.

To attend please send an email to healthwatchusa@gmail.com

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