Health Watch USA℠ Newsletter

Neutral Zone (Hands-free Transfer Tray)

HW USA Blog -- Preoperative Patient and Surgeon Mutual Protection Agreement **Enhancing Patient & Occupational Safety and Reducing Professional Liability**

"As Hippocrates suggested, the goal is to protect patients from preventable harm. This new tool does that while protecting surgical care providers from occupational risk and potential liability. This is clearly a win-win for patients, surgeons and facilities. For more information on this "Preoperative Patient and Surgeon Mutual Protection Agreement" and to download a copy, go to www.healthwatchusa.org/surgeonsconsent/ ." "
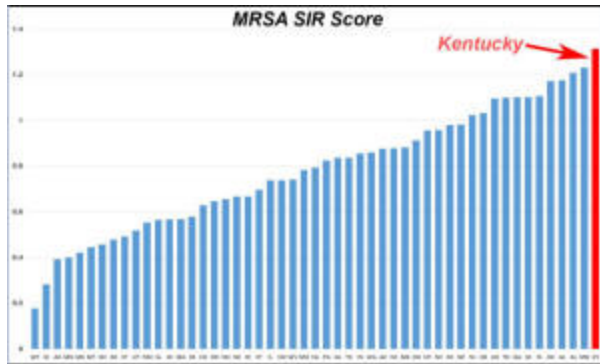
Read the complete blog post at www.healthwatchusa.info

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/d0df6ca4-29b9-1e6-a3c4-0724e8e24f3f_gallery.html

Bacteria that can't be treated by any antibiotic now in U.S.; Kentucky ranks first in one type of antibiotic-resistant infection

Kentucky Health News: "Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, a retired physician and chairman of Health Watch USA, said he isn't convinced that the U.S. pig was infected by livestock from China. He noted that colistin is commonly used to treat CRE, cystic fibrosis and that a form of colistin can be found in many over-the-counter topical antibiotics." **Click on picture to enlarge**

""It's probably more likely that the pig in the U.S. obtained this from the farmer's medicine cabinet than from another pig in China," Kavanagh said."

"Kentucky has one of the highest prescribing rates of antibiotics in the nation and also leads the nation in another antibiotic resistant infection called MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus)."

""Overuse of antibiotics has got to stop," says Kavanagh said. "The use of antibiotics needs to be curtailed to only when it is necessary. ... Every time you take an antibiotic you remove your good bacteria and run a real risk of activating a superbug in your body which can cause you extreme harm and even death. You should only take antibiotics when you have to take them.""

http://kyhealthnews.blogspot.com/2016/06/bacteria-that-cant-be-treated-by-any.html

Healthcare Finances

Flawed Legislation to Correct Hospital Outpatient Facility Fees, Which are Costing Medicare Billions.

If hospitals have not aggressively purchased physician practices, the legislation gives them incentive to do so now, said Kevin Kavanagh, of Health Watch USA, a Kentucky-based patient advocacy and research group. "If the design was to lower fees, it's not doing that," (Dr). Kavanagh said. "It is hurrying up the process by setting a deadline. It did not unravel the damage that's already been done."
http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/facility-fees-cost-medicare-billions-1.2054288

http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/hospital-fees-under-scrutiny-1.2054287

Department of Justice Heightens Focus on Health Care, Challenges North Carolina Hospital's Patient Steering Restrictions
 Crowell Moring "Contract restrictions required by a major hospital system that prohibit commercial health

insurers from offering financial incentives for patients to use less expensive healthcare services offered by the hospital's competitors are the focus of the Justice Department's recent antitrust complaint against the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Hospital Authority "

https://www.crowell.com/NewsEvents/AlertsNewsletters/all/Department-of-Justice-Heightens-Focus-on-Health-Care-Challenges-North-Carolina-Hospitals-Patient-Steering-Restrictions

Healthcare Quality

Why Healthcare May Be Hazardous For Your Health
Speaker: Jim Bailey, MD will discuss his novel, "The End of Healing", and talk about "Why healthcare may be hazardous for your health".   "(The amount paid) has nothing to do with the quality of results. It is not whether you kill or cure but how you code the claim." View YouTube Presentation:
https://youtu.be/sWaRcKIXvUk

Over 100 million prescriptions written before drug safety recalls
http://www.pnhp.org/news/2016/june/over-100-million-prescriptions-written-before-drug-safety-recalls

Consumer Reports and Hospital C-Section Rates
http://www.consumerreports.org/health/doctors-hospitals/hospital-ratings.htm

Medical Devices

Medical Device Guardians Act Filed In Congress
On June 8, 2016, a bipartisan bill was proposed by U.S. Representatives Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Louise Slaughter (D-NY) and Ryan Zinke (R-MT). This bill, the "Medical Device Guardians Act" (H.R. 5404), was named in honor of the hundreds, if not thousands, of women whose lives were devastated or ended prematurely, using a flawed medical device known as a Power Morcellator.
Read more at   http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/healthcare/Will-Congress-choose-to-protect-patients-and-doctors-from-dangerous-devices.html

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June's Newsletter -- First Issue (6/10/2016)
 Due to a programming error, the pre-copyedited newsletter was sent out via PHP List. To obtain a copyedited copy of the last newsletter use the below link:
http://www.healthwatchusa.org/publications/20160610-HWUSA-Newsletter.pdf

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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, July 20, 2016 -- Adobe Connect

Presentation on patient and financial impact of hospital facility fees for outpatient services.

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