



Health Watch USAsm

Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Sep. 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 Finances

U.S. health reform now needs reforming - OpEd.



Lexington Herald Leader: "Health care comprises almost 18 percent of the United States' gross domestic product — a figure touted by the industry as testament to its importance to society and contribution to our standard of living. But this statistic paints a rosy picture and hides a bitter truth. In 2015, we spent \$24,691 for each family — almost half of the average family income of \$54,000. The Affordable Care Act is at risk of becoming anything but affordable. Its name should be changed to the Accountable Care Act, since the ACA has good provisions which promote health-care transparency and quality. But as it stands, our health-care delivery system is again in desperate need of

reform." <http://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article96764732.html>

Two Thirds of Healthcare Costs are Paid by Government, Even More in California.

Modern Healthcare: "About 71% of healthcare spending in California this year will be covered by taxpayers, according to a new report (PDF)." "The figure slightly outpaces the national average. In 2015, taxpayers accounted for 65% of total healthcare spending nationally." www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20160901/NEWS/160909985

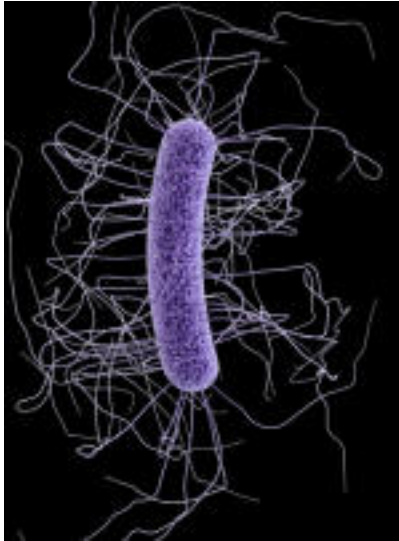
Modern Healthcare: Florida Blues collected \$471 million profit on ACA plans in 2015

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20160615/NEWS/160619946>

How Has the Affordable Care Act Affected Health Insurers' Financial Performance?

Commonwealth Fund: "Overall, insurers' premium revenue from individual market plans increased 97 percent between 2012 and 2014, owing to the large number of new enrollees through the marketplaces. Profits varied, however, with a third of insurers remaining or becoming profitable and two-thirds losing money. The majority of unprofitable insurers also did not turn a profit the previous year, before the ACA was implemented, the authors note." <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2016/jul/the-affordable-care-act-and-health-insurers-financial-performance>

Healthcare Infections



Is the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistance missing opportunities?

American Journal of Infection Control: "Antimicrobial resistance is a critically important impending public health crisis that not only threatens the treatment of infectious disease, but also the very foundations of modern health care from transplantation to cancer chemotherapy. Many types of surgeries and the health of immunocompromised patients, including those with diabetes, will be placed at risk if antibiotics are no longer able to prevent or treat infections."

"Similar to other industrialized countries with national healthcare, the United States needs to set prioritized standards which can be implemented with near uniformity across our healthcare system. This will not be an easy task, but how the leaders in public health and infectious disease address this epidemic at this juncture will be studied for millennia and their actions dissected for centuries to come. Their decisions will determine their legacy and the future of modern health care as a whole."

Link to Published Manuscript (available via library or via payment): [http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(16\)30706-4/abstract](http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(16)30706-4/abstract)

Link to Author Manuscript Version (free access): <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Publications/PDF-Downloads/20160906-PACCARBCommentary-FinalSubmittedManuscript.pdf>

'Superbug' scourge spreads as U.S. fails to track rising human toll.

Fifteen years after the U.S. declared drug-resistant infections to be a grave threat, the crisis is only worsening, a Reuters investigation finds, as government agencies remain unwilling or unable to impose reporting requirements on a healthcare industry that often hides the problem.

<http://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-uncounted-surveillance/>

FDA Yanks Over-The-Counter Antibacterial Soaps?

"An FDA review of chemicals in OTC consumer antiseptic wash products did not find concrete evidence that the 19 banned chemicals prevent illness and infection better than plain soap and water, or are safe for long-term daily

use." http://www.medpagetoday.com/InfectiousDisease/GeneralInfectiousDisease/60016?isalert=1&uun=g403075d5252R5504831u&xid=NL_breakingnews_2016-09-02

MMWR Epidemiology of Sepsis: Prevalence of Health Care Factors and Opportunities for Prevention

"Infection prevention strategies (e.g., vaccination, reducing transmission of pathogens in health care environments, and appropriate management of chronic diseases) are likely to have a substantial impact on reducing sepsis. CDC, in partnership with organizations representing clinicians, patients, and other

stakeholders, is launching a comprehensive campaign to demonstrate that prevention of infections that cause sepsis, and early recognition of sepsis, are integral to overall patient safety."

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6533e1.htm>

Health Care Quality

CMS Issues Proposed Rule that Prohibits Discrimination, Reduces Hospital-Acquired Conditions, and Promotes Antibiotic Stewardship in Hospitals

"...the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it is proposing to update the requirements that hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) must meet to participate in Medicare and Medicaid. The proposed changes to the requirements, formally called the Conditions of Participation, would modernize and revise the requirements to reflect current standards of practice and support improvements in quality of care by:

- Reducing readmissions;
- Reducing barriers to care;
- Reducing the incidence of hospital-acquired conditions (including healthcare-associated infections);
- Improving the use of antibiotics (including the potential for reduced antibiotic resistance);
- Addressing workforce shortage issues; and
- Improving patient protections. "

<https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2016-Fact-sheets-items/2016-06-13.html>

The Life-Changing Magic of Choosing the Right Hospital

New York Times: "...a study by health economists at Harvard, M.I.T., Columbia and the University of Chicago showed that heart attack survival gains from patients selecting better hospitals were significant, about half as large as those from breakthrough technologies."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/23/upshot/the-life-changing-magic-of-choosing-the-right-hospital.html>

11 Hospitals With the Highest C-Section Rates

Consumer Union: <http://www.consumerreports.org/health/doctors-hospitals/hospital-ratings.htm>

Too Many Hospitals Neglect to Staff ICUs with Expertise in Critical Care Medicine

The Leapfrog Group: "...a new report released today by health care non-profit The Leapfrog Group and analyzed by Castlight Health indicates that only 47 percent of hospitals reporting in the 2015 Leapfrog Hospital Survey have the recommended intensivist coverage in place."

<http://www.leapfroggroup.org/news-events/majority-us-hospitals-still-fail-implement-icu-policies-known-dramatically-lower-patient>

<http://www.leapfroggroup.org/ratings-reports/reports-hospital-performance>

Health Watch USA Patient Safety 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. Registration is \$48. Continuing education for physicians (Type I AMA), nurses, occupational therapists and physical therapists have been applied for and are included with the registration cost.

To Register Go

To: <http://www.healthconference.org/payment.htm>

View Agenda: <http://www.healthconference.org/agenda.htm>

For More Information Go To www.healthconference.org

To Download the Conference Flyer Go

To: http://www.healthconference.org/2016conference_downloads/ConferenceFlyer-SDM.pdf

Health Watch USA Meeting

Nov. 21, 2016 at 7:00 PM Eastern Time.

Speaker Patient Advocate Emily Patterson will be the presenter.

Meeting will be a webinar format and held over Adobe Connect.

If you wish to attend, please send an email to healthwatchusa@gmail.com

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