



Health Watch USAsm

Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Oct. 4, 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

Drug Industry's Quest For Profits Yields Superbugs - Lexington Herald Leader OpEd.



Lexington Herald Leader: "... here's the reality. Buried in files stored on www.medicare.gov and reported to Hospital Compare is documentation that there has been little decrease in MRSA bloodstream infections, possibly even a recent uptick. Now Big Pharma wants your hard-earned tax dollars to fund the development of new antibiotics and to save the financial integrity and future of the industry, imperiled by its own relentless quest to satiate the demand for short-term profits." Graphic By: Tim Lee - McClatchy Tribune www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article103803786.html

Public Comment Before the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria - Sep. 19, 2016.

"Recently, the FDA took an important first step by banning antimicrobial agents in household soaps, I feel this needs to be expanded to encompass other over-the-counter disinfectants and products, especially last line of defense antibiotics which are found in topical ointments – Such as Polymyxin B found in Polysporin, Neosporin and Triple Antibiotic Ointments.

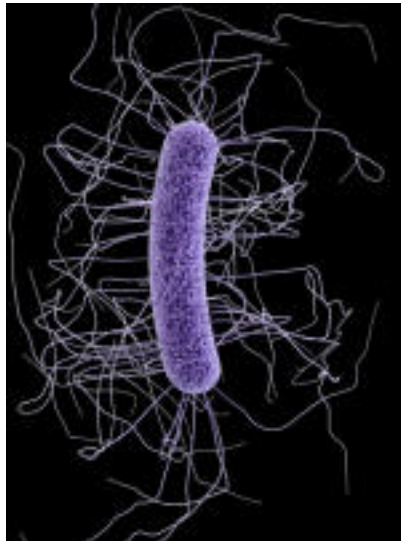
There is no doubt that antibiotic stewardship is important, but there appears to be a disconnect between the concern regarding low levels of environmental contamination from agriculture and animal husbandry versus that associated with common household products. It needs to be remembered that low levels of contamination are optimal for promoting resistance.

In addition, much work needs to be done on the prevention of patient-to-patient transmission. Standards are too lax and those that exist lack the specificity needed for controlling highly infectious and dangerous pathogens, such as MRSA.

In the United States, MRSA bacteremia was trending downward. But recent reports on Hospital Compare shows the average hospital SIR (with 1.0 as the baseline) is now 0.93 and is going in the opposite direction, away from the SIR goal of 0.75.

The committee needs to guard against giving the appearance of deflection with their concentration of efforts on agriculture and the funding of the pharmaceutical industry. The committee needs to ensure that our healthcare institutions make the needed investments in prevention and patient safety, along with setting well defined standards for screening, isolation, environmental cleaning, appropriate staffing and worker safety. "

YouTube Audio of the Presentation <https://youtu.be/RGIpKY1L-S4>



Excellent Video Illustrating How Bacterial Antibiotic Resistance Develops

<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2016/09/a-cinematic-approach-to-drug-resistance/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plV4k4NVIUh8&feature=youtu.be>

US Hospitals Are Not Cutting Back On Antibiotic Use - CDC Study

JAMA Internal Medicine: " Overall (days of therapy) of all antibiotics among hospitalized patients in US hospitals has not changed significantly in recent years. Use of some antibiotics,

especially broad spectrum agents, however, has increased significantly. This trend is worrisome in light of the rising challenge of antibiotic resistance. Our findings can help inform national efforts to improve antibiotic use by suggesting key targets for improvement interventions."

<http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2553294>

U.N. adopts declaration on anti-microbial resistance

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20160921/NEWS/160929972>

Healthcare Devices

***Latest* Scotland Calls for Criminal Investigation into Counterfeit Mesh Allegations Against Boston Scientific**

"Mesh campaigners in Scotland are calling on a criminal investigation into allegations that substandard counterfeit raw material was used to make pelvic mesh implants used on Scottish women."

<http://www.meshmedicaldevicenewsdesk.com/scotland-calls-criminal-investigation-counterfeit-mesh-allegations-boston-scientific/>

Healthcare Finances



Many Large Advocacy Groups Are Quiet On The High Cost of Drugs.

New York Times: "Public anger over the cost of drugs has burned hot for a year, coursing through social media, popping up on the presidential campaign, and erupting in a series of congressional hearings, including one last week over the rising price of the allergy treatment EpiPen. But one set of voices has been oddly muted — the nation's biggest patient advocacy groups."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/28/business/furor-over-drug-prices-puts-patient-advocacy-groups-in-bind.html>

The Irish Times Using the U.S. Healthcare System As To Why Irelands Should Be Nationalized.

Irish Times: "The US, with health expenditure of around 18 per cent of GDP, denies more than one in five of its population access to healthcare. Overtreatment and denial of care, healthcare fraud, catastrophic costs and spiralling health expenditure are the hallmark of US healthcare."

<http://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/how-we-could-have-a-national-health-service-in-ireland-1.2810543>

Shaky Obamacare Market Adds to 'Death Spiral' Fears

Bloomberg: "As concerns about the survival of the Affordable Care Act's markets intensify, the role of nonprofit "co-op" health insurers -- meant to broaden choices under the law -- has gained prominence. Most of the original 23 co-ops have failed, dumping more than 800,000 members back onto the ACA markets over the last two years."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-09-23/failing-obamacare-nonprofit-co-ops-add-to-death-spiral-fears>

Employers Requiring Employees to Pay More

Modern Healthcare: "Premiums for people who get health insurance through their jobs increased at a relatively glacial pace in 2016, but that's a result of employers continuing to offer more plans that require workers to pay for more of their healthcare out of pocket. "

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20160914/NEWS/160919956>

Malpractice Claims Down

MedPage Today: "Communication with patients, diagnosis still problems. The frequency of claims against both internists and hospitalists has declined over the last decade-plus."

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/PracticeManagement/Medicolegal/60370>

Health Care Quality

U.S. Supreme Court To Bar Nursing Home Arbitration

New York Times: "The federal agency that controls more than \$1 trillion in Medicare and Medicaid funding has moved to prevent nursing homes from forcing claims of elder abuse, sexual harassment and even wrongful death into the private system of justice known as arbitration."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/29/business/dealbook/arbitration-nursing-homes-elder-abuse-harassment->

[claims.html](#)

Chinese Clinical Trials Data 80 Percent Fabricated: Government

Radio Free Asia: "China's food and drug regulator recently carried out a one-year review of clinical trials, concluding that more than 80 percent of clinical data is "fabricated," state media reported."
<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/clinical-fakes-09272016141438.html>

Quality of Care Does Not Improve as Hospitals Employ Physicians

Ann Int Med: "During the past decade, hospitals have increasingly become employers of physicians. The study's findings suggest that physician employment alone probably is not a sufficient tool for improving hospital care."
<http://annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2552987>

HHS Makes it Harder for Clinical Researchers to Avoid Sharing Trial Data Modern

HealthCare: <http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20160916/NEWS/160919922>

NIH News Release: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/hhs-take-steps-provide-more-information-about-clinical-trials-public>

2015 STAT Report on the Non-Reporting of Investigation

Data: <https://www.statnews.com/2015/12/13/clinical-trials-investigation/>

The Rise of the 'Bedless Hospital'

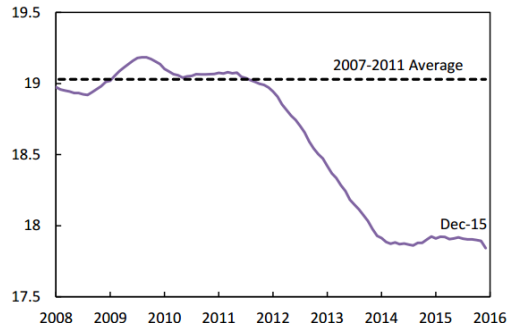
STAT: "It reduces cost, and it reduces the risk of infection," said Dr. Akram Boutros, CEO of MetroHealth System, which just opened a \$48 million bedless hospital near Cleveland that he expects will serve about 3,000 people in the first year. "People go home to a less-risky environment, where they tend to get better faster."
<https://www.statnews.com/2016/09/16/bedless-hospitals/>

Thyroid Cancer Over Diagnosed

Medscape: "A large fraction of thyroid cancer cases represent overdiagnoses, and at least half a million patients, most of them women, may have received unnecessary surgery and other cancer treatments, say researchers from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), in Lyons, France"
<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/867598>

Hospital Readmission Rates Are Dropping

Medicare 30-Day, All-Condition Hospital Readmission Rate
Percent, 12-month moving average



- 1) All states but one have seen Medicare 30-day readmission rates fall.
- 2) In 43 states, readmission rates fell by more than 5 percent.
- 3) In 11 states, readmission rates fell by more than 10 percent.

<https://blog.cms.gov/2016/09/13/new-data-49-states-plus-dc-reduce-avoidable-hospital-readmissions/>

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.

Keynote Speakers Include:

- 1) Karen Posner, PhD Presenting on the Closed Claim Project.
- 2) Jim Bailey, MD Presenting on "The End of Healing"
- 3) Mark Davis, MD Presenting on "Safer Surgical Instrumentation and Protection for Surgeons and Patients"

For a full list of speakers and agenda Go To: <http://www.healthconference.org/agenda.htm>

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>

For More Information Go To www.healthconference.org

To Download the Conference Flyer Go

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

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