

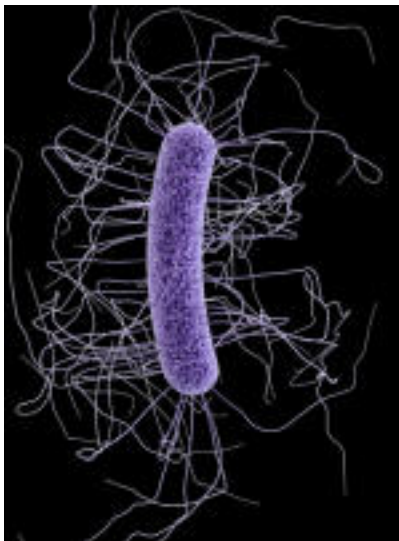


Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Jan. 1, 2017

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

Health Care Infections

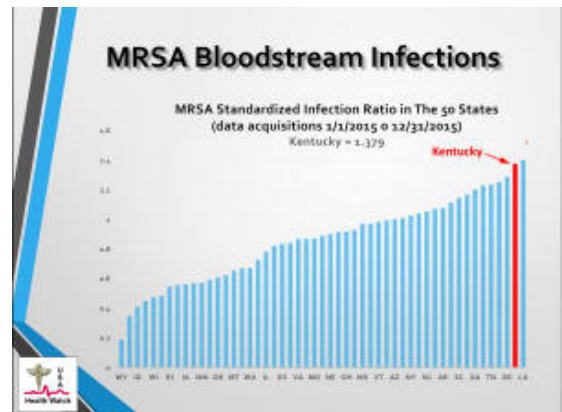


Testimony: The Epidemic of Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms.

"Kevin Kavanagh, MD, MS presents at the Dec. 2016 Kentucky State Joint House and Senate Health and Welfare Committee on the prevention of infections from multi-drug resistant organisms with special emphasis on MRSA. Antibiotic stewardship, reporting, and a coordinated response with health department engagement are essential for control." **YouTube Video:**

<https://youtu.be/U9GQDudm8w8>

The graph below shows the adjusted infection rate (SIR) for the superbug MRSA. Higher is worse. (Click on Picture To Enlarge)



Health Watch Group Urges Increased 'Superbug' Reporting

WEKU NPR: 'Kevin Kavanagh says Kentucky's current regulation for reporting multi-drug-resistant bacteria to health officials is very good. But, the doctor says, the rule needs to be more fully enacted to get information about "superbugs" to the public. "That is one of the problems, that we don't really have, standardized ways of confronting this epidemic," says Kavanagh. "And getting more data is crucial."'

<http://weku.fm/post/health-watch-group-urges-increased-superbug-reporting>

How hospitals, nursing homes keep lethal 'superbug' outbreaks secret.

"Across the U.S., vague rules give healthcare providers lots of leeway in deciding when, or even whether, to report unusual clusters of infections. And when they do alert officials, that information is usually kept from the public."

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

Letter Sent By Patient Advocates to the New England Journal of Medicine Requesting An Inquiry Regarding the REDUCE MRSA Study.

"We would like to request that the New England Journal of Medicine undertake an evaluation of the "REDUCE MRSA" manuscript by Huang, et al., for consideration of retraction due to a variety of concerns which we feel impact the integrity of this research. We feel this reexamination is of paramount importance, since we believe that the REDUCE MRSA manuscript has led to an overestimation on the efficacy of Chlorhexidine in the prevention of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections and has formed the basis for policy recommendation regarding control of MRSA. Of grave concern is mounting evidence that Chlorhexidine may promote bacterial resistance to antibiotics."

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20161219A-Letter-REDUCE-MRSA-DigSigned.pdf>

Commentary Questioning Efficacy and Conflict-of-Interest Statement In Hand Hygiene Monitoring Research.

The main issue is regarding the accuracy of the finding that the intervention caused a 42% decrease in MRSA infections. HW USA submitted a Letter-To-The-Editor to the American Journal of Infection Control regarding this issue.

American Journal of Infection Control. December 01 2016

[http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(16\)30904-X/fulltext](http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(16)30904-X/fulltext)

Although the author provided a response, we are still not able to reconcile the newly provided data in the letter with the article's concluded result. We calculate a 30% reduction from the data in the letter. However, the manuscript stated there was a 42% reduction. Below is a second comment expressing these concerns.

In: PubMed Commons [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Library of Medicine; 2016 Dec. 16.

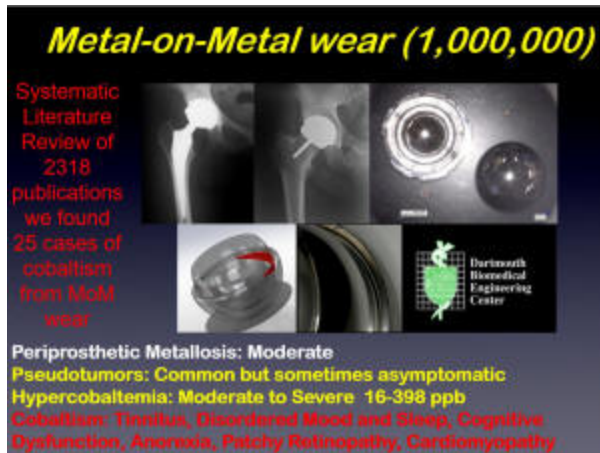
Available from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27908437#cm27908437_34333

Healthcare Quality

Can the physician data bank predict future risk of malpractice occurrence??

"A clustering of payments in medical malpractice cases has been detected by an analysis of data from the NPDB. Approximately 1.8% of physicians are responsible for 50% of the payouts..... The authors theorize that the total payout metric is superior because it is related to both the severity of the incidents and to the total number of payments." Read More Journal of Patient

Safety: http://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Abstract/publishahead/The_Detection,_Analysis,_and_Significance_of.99553.aspx



Hip Metallosis and Corrosion-A Million Harmed Due to FDA Inaction.

"The FDA's premarket approval processes and postmarket surveillance mechanisms are systematically flawed and have resulted in incalculable suffering at great public expense. The 21st Century Cures Act places the fox in the coop, and it needs to be amended to strengthen patient protection or be discarded."

http://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Citation/publishahead/Hip_Metallosis_and_Corrosion_A_Million_Harmed_Due.99566.aspx

Even amid crisis, opioid makers plied doctors with perks

While the opioid crisis deepened in Maine over the past three years, drug companies selling opioids increasingly showed up on the doorsteps of physicians' offices – offering free food and beverages, consulting or speaking fees, discount coupons for drugs and other freebies. The total payments to doctors related to opioids doubled from 2014 to 2015.

<http://www.pressherald.com/2016/12/25/even-amid-crisis-opioid-makers-plied-doctors-with-perks/>

One-third of long-term users say they're hooked on prescription opioids

"One-third of Americans who have taken prescription opioids for at least two months say they became addicted to, or physically dependent on, the powerful painkillers, according to a new Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation survey. "

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/one-third-of-long-term-users-say-theyre-hooked-on-prescription-opioids/2016/12/09/e048d322-baed-11e6-91ee-1adddfe36cbe_story.html

769 Hospitals Penalized For Patient Safety In 2017: Data Table

The federal government has cut payments to hospitals with high rates of patient injuries this year. Those hospitals will lose 1 percent of Medicare payments over the federal fiscal year, which runs from October 2016 through next September.

<http://khn.org/news/769-hospitals-penalized-for-patient-safety-in-2017-data-table/>

Healthcare Finances

Why Are Hospital Prices Different?

"A hospital's market leverage, or its bargaining power when negotiating with insurers, is a key factor in the prices a hospital can command." "Hospitals with higher prices do not necessarily have higher quality."

<http://nyshealthfoundation.org/resources-and-reports/resource/an-examination-of-new-york-hospital-reimbursement>



Health Watch USA's Jan. 18th Meeting

7:00 PM ET -- Adobe Connect

Amanda Rusmisell is the Legislative Liaison and State Admin for the Essure Problems Group. Mrs. Rusmisell has spoken before the FDA, organized and participated in numerous advocacy meetings in Washington DC and has participated in numerous interviews on the dangers of the Essure contraceptive device. The Essure Problems Group has advocated for the E-Free Act (H.R. 3920), Ariel Grace's Law (H.R. 5403) and the Medical Guardians Act (H.R. 5404).

To Join the meeting, send an email to healthwatchusa@gmail.com

HW USA's 2016 Healthcare Quality & Patient Safety Conference

Ideas for patient safety: collaboration, transparency, more nurses in hospitals and nursing homes, surgical patients' risk awareness.

Kentucky Health News. Nov. 20, 2016: "Patient safety was the topic at the 2016 Health Watch USA conference this month in Lexington, with health advocates calling for a more collaborative and transparent health-care system to better prevent medical errors, improved nurse-to-patient ratios and a call for patients to become their own advocates to improve their safety in the operating room." <http://kyhealthnews.blogspot.com/2016/11/ideas-to-improve-patient-safety.html>

Presentations videos for the 2016 Conference are now online.

To view the conference presentations: Go To:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKKV6p_etRmPhxndxzrvt7yeE-ICUmqzK

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