



# Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup>

## Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Feb. 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 PACCARB: The Epidemic of Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms.**

Kevin Kavanagh, MD, MS from Health Watch USA gives comments regarding the United States missing goals for reducing MRSA and other resistant pathogens along with the need for a mandatory publicly reported comprehensive surveillance system to track

multi-drug resistant organisms. -- PACCARB Public Comment Jan. 25, 2017. YouTube Video: [https://youtu.be/hbdXX3a\\_OIY](https://youtu.be/hbdXX3a_OIY) [Written Comments](#)

#### **Multi-institute analysis of carbapenem resistance reveals remarkable diversity, unexplained mechanisms, and limited clonal outbreaks:**

"The extensive variation (of resistance), together with evidence of transmission beyond limited clonal outbreaks, points to multiple unsampled transmission chains throughout the continuum of care, including asymptomatic carriage and transmission of CRE. This finding suggests that to control this threat, we need an aggressive approach to surveillance and isolation.."

Proceedings of the National Academy of

Sciences: <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2017/01/10/1616248114.full.pdf>



**News Report for Above Study:** "'Superbug' May Be More Widespread Than Thought"

<https://consumer.healthday.com/infectious-disease-information-21/bacteria-960/superbug-may-be-more-widespread-than-thought-718687.html>

### **A 5% Carrier Rate for the Superbug CRE Found in Major District of Columbia Hospital.**

Reed T. Exclusive: First-ever study of superbugs in D.C. hospitals shows how prevalent they are. Washington Business Journal. May 3,

2016. <http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news/2016/05/03/exclusive-first-ever-study-of-superbugs-in-d-c.html> Download Study: <http://www.hwusa-newsletter.org/Newsletter-Pages/Images-2016/DC-CRE-Study-Handout.pdf>

### **Woman Dies in Reno, Nevada From Totally Resistant CRE Bacteria.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6601a7.htm>

Stat News: <https://www.statnews.com/2017/01/12/nevada-woman-superbug-resistant/>

### **"FDA bans chemicals linked to antibiotic resistance from soap"**

Salon: [http://www.salon.com/2017/01/25/household-items-contain-fda-chemicals-banned-from-soap\\_partner/](http://www.salon.com/2017/01/25/household-items-contain-fda-chemicals-banned-from-soap_partner/)

### **NEJM Responds to Consumers' Concerns Regarding the REDUCE MRSA Study.**

Last December 20<sup>th</sup>, consumer advocates sent a letter to the NEJM asking for an evaluation of the research integrity of the REDUCE MRSA Study. Of utmost concern were changes in trial metrics after the trial completion date. The original letter and response can be viewed here.

[View Enquiry Letter](#)   [View NEJM Response](#)

## **Medical Devices**



### **Dangers of the Essure Contraceptive Devices**

Amanda Rusmisell, legislative Liaison for the Essure Problems Group presents on reported dangers of the Essure Contraceptive Device along with the activities and accomplishments of the Essure Problems Group.

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/zSVe5MQLTeA>

## Healthcare Quality

### **Nine Single Star Hospitals Are Missing**

"When CMS updated the formula used in its Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating program in December, the number of hospitals that received the lowest possible rating of one star fell from 121 in October to 112."

<http://www.beckershospitalreview.com/quality/where-are-cms-new-overall-1-star-hospitals.html>

---

## Health Watch USA's Feb. 15th Meeting

**7:00 PM ET -- Adobe Connect**

Meeting Information to be announced.

To Join the meeting, send an email to [healthwatchusa@gmail.com](mailto:healthwatchusa@gmail.com)

## Health Watch 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\\_etRmPhxndxrvt7yeE-ICUmqzK](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKKV6p_etRmPhxndxrvt7yeE-ICUmqzK)

---

**To subscribe to Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> newsletter go to:**

<http://www.hwusa-newsletter.org/lists/?p=subscribe&id=1>



**Visit and "Like" HW USA's Facebook Page at:**

<https://www.facebook.com/HealthWatchUsa>

