



Health Watch USAsm

Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org May 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

Healthcare Acquired Infections



Antimicrobial Resistance & Chemotherapy Blog on Tracking and Control of MRSA?

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh states: "I view hand hygiene for the prevention of MRSA as an important backup measure. If MRSA is being spread by the hands of healthcare workers, then their hands must at one time have become contaminated with MRSA and there must have been a failure of containment and control, which should be viewed as our frontline intervention." <http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/on-health/2017/04/10/the-incidence-of-mrsa-infections-in-the-united-states-is-a-more-comprehensive-tracking-system-needed/>

Reuters Investigates Industrial Influence and Infection Control Policy

<http://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-superbugs-research/>

News Release -- Does the United States need a paradigm shift to control MRSA?

View News Release: <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2017/04/prweb14247610.htm>

Bacteria infected 10 infants at UC Irvine hospital, but the public is just finding out

"Yet UCI doctors have not found the source of the infections – which continued even after 220 employees used antiseptic soap and ointment to eliminate bacteria on their skin and in their noses." <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-uc-irvine-superbug-outbreak-20170413-story.html>

A quarter of nursing home residents are colonized with multidrug-resistant bacteria And this is just counting gram negative bacteria, NOT MRSA.

Beckers Infection Control & Clinical Quality: "The literature review and meta-analysis found roughly a quarter (27 percent) of nursing home residents on average are colonized with multidrug-resistant gram-negative bacteria. "

<http://www.beckershospitalreview.com/quality/a-quarter-of-nursing-home-residents-are-colonized-with-multidrug-resistant-bacteria.html>

[http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(17\)30085-8/abstract](http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(17)30085-8/abstract)

Healthcare Quality

Wide Variation in Cesarean Section Rates

Dr. Neel Shah, MD, MPP, Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School and Director of the Delivery Decisions Initiative at the Ariadne Labs for Health Systems Innovation. Presenting on the wide variation in cesarean section rates across the United States. View YouTube

Video: <https://youtu.be/EKZw7tP-AKI>



CMS Proposing to Make Hospital Accreditation Surveys Public.

A long time policy initiative of Health Watch USA has been to bring hospitals under the same public scrutiny as restaurants by having their inspection reports made public.

- Sept. 2011 Letter signed by over 50 patient advocates and advocate organizations to Senator Harkin. [View Letter to Senator Harkin](#)
- Oct. 2011 Letter signed by 20 business healthcare purchasing alliances to Senator McConnell. [View Letter to Senator McConnell](#)
- [CMS Response](#)

Apr. 28, 2017: New proposed regulations from CMS requires the accrediting organizations to publicly release survey reports. <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20170420-CMS-NewRegulation-Hospital-Accreditation.pdf>

May 4, 2017: Health Watch USA, along with over 50 other patient advocates, advocate organizations and business purchasing alliances, have commented on and signed a support letter regarding the proposed regulation which is designed to lift the veil of secrecy surrounding hospital accreditation surveys. View Letter: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20170504-CMS-Hospital-AO-Transparency-Support-Letter.pdf>

Hospital Impact: CMS transparency rule is a step toward consumer-centric, market-driven care
<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals/hospital-impact-cms-transparency-rule-a-step-toward-consumer-centric-market-driven-care>

Secret hospital inspections may become public at last

<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/healthcare/secret-hospital-inspections-may-become-public-at-last>

Healthcare Finance

The Doctors Company (Malpractice Insurance Company) Announces \$26 Million Member Dividend

"Napa, California—March 29, 2017—The Doctors Company, the nation's largest physician-owned medical malpractice insurer, has declared a 2017 premium dividend of approximately \$26 million.

Since the program's start in 1976, the company has paid out nearly \$400 million in dividends.." <http://www.thedoctors.com/TDC/PressRoom/PressContent/The-Doctors-Company-Announces-26-Million-Member-Dividend>

Medical Ethics

The "Seven Pillars" Response to Patient Safety Incidents: Effects on Medical Liability Processes and Outcomes.

Results of a Full Disclosure, Apology and Rapid Compensation Program at the University of Illinois Hospital: "The intervention nearly doubled the number of incident reports, halved the number of claims, and reduced legal fees and costs as well as total costs per claim, settlement amounts, and self-insurance costs." <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=27558861>

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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>

Presentation videos for the 2016 Conference are now online.

To view the conference presentations: Go To:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKKV6p_etRmPhxndxrv7yeE-ICUmqzK

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