



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

## Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) June 15, 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

### Evidence Mounts That Some Hip Implants Are Toxic to the Brain



Health Watch USA News Release: Areas of the brain that control memory, vision, personality and movement can be damaged by the highly toxic metal cobalt used to make artificial joints. Recent research has found, using advanced brain imaging and computer analysis, the areas and amount of brain injury from cobalt alloy leached from a failing artificial joint causing brain toxicity can be detected and measured.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2017/06/prweb14385830.htm>

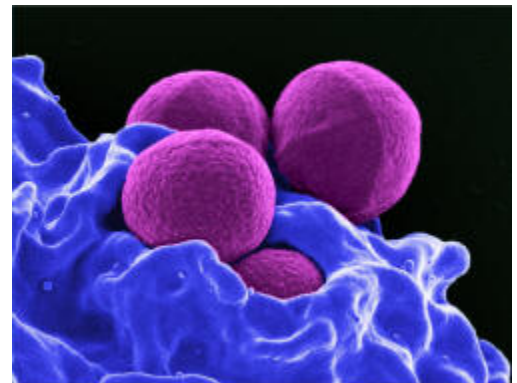
YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/CpaQliphWAM>

### Healthcare Acquired Infections

#### Prevention of catheter-associated urinary tract infection in nursing home residents.

"Catheter-associated urinary tract infections are considered preventable never events. This pre-post implementation project conducted in long-term care facilities employed a multimodal intervention, similar to the Keystone ICU project. This sociotechnical approach included checklists, care team education, leadership engagement, communication interventions, and patient and family engagement. The project was conducted over a 2-year period across 48 states."

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/resources/resource/31122>



#### New pediatric protocol reduces missed sepsis diagnoses by 76 percent

Eurek Alert: "An electronic sepsis alert using a combination of vital signs, risk factors and physician judgment to identify children in a pediatric emergency department with severe

sepsis reduced missed diagnoses by 76 percent." [https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2017-06/acoenpp060617.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2017-06/acoenpp060617.php)

## Healthcare Finances & System

### **For the first time ever, less than half of physicians are independent**

Modern Healthcare: "Less than half of practicing physicians in the U.S. owned their medical practice in 2016, marking the first time that the majority of physicians are not practice owners, according to a new study."

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20170531/NEWS/170539971/for-the-first-time-ever-less-than-half-of-physicians-are-independent>

AMA Survey: <https://www.ama-assn.org/sites/default/files/media-browser/public/health-policy/PRP-2016-physician-benchmark-survey.pdf>

### **Price gouging in the ER: Patients often overcharged but markups highest for minorities, uninsured**

FierceHealthcare: <http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/healthcare/price-gouging-er-patients-often-overcharged-but-mark-ups-highest-for-minorities>

JAMA Internal Medicine: Variation in Emergency Department vs Internal Medicine Excess Charges in the United State <http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/2629494>

## Medical Ethics

### **JAMA devotes an Entire Issue to Conflicts of Interest, Which Riddles Every Level of the Medical and Research Industry.**

<http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/issue/317/17>

### **Controversial trial of premature infants faces fresh scrutiny following release of documents**

Stat News: "A controversial trial to test oxygen levels delivered to premature infants is facing fresh scrutiny following the disclosure of documents showing that researchers continued the experiment despite learning their oxygen monitors were malfunctioning."

<https://www.statnews.com/2017/06/14/premature-infant-study/>

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## Health Watch USA's June Patient Safety Webinar

**Topic:** Oversight and Safety of Medical Devices

**Speaker:** Joleen Chambers

**When:** June 21st, 2017 at 7:00 PM Eastern Time

To attend send an email to [healthwatchusa@gmail.com](mailto:healthwatchusa@gmail.com)

## Health Watch USA's 2017 Healthcare Quality & Patient Safety Conference

**Nov. 3rd, 2017 at the Four Points Sheraton, Lexington, KY -- Save the date.**

**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](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKKV6p_etRmPhxndxrv7yeE-ICUmqzK)

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