



Health Watch USAsm

Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Sept. 6, 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

The Maine Hospital Screens All Patients For MRSA. Infections fall over 90%

Portland Press Herald: "Valenti said Maine Med now screens all of its patients for MRSA, and if they carry the bacteria, they are treated with antibiotics as a preventive measure prior to surgery." "The incidence of MRSA infections at Maine Med has plummeted from about 4 cases per 1,000 patient days about 15 years ago to 0.38 cases per 1,000 patient days now, Valenti said." <http://www.pressherald.com/?p=1234822>

Hand Hygiene

Workload even affects hand hygiene in a highly trained and well-staffed setting: a prospective 365/7/24 observational study.

"Calculated compliance was inversely associated with nurses' workload. Hand-rub activities (HRA)/patient-day (PD), observer-determined compliance and amount of disinfectant dispensed were used as surrogates for compliance, but did not correlate with actual compliance and thus should be used with caution".

[Workload even affects hand hygiene in a highly trained and well-staffed setting: a prospective 365/7/24 observational study](http://www.healthwatchusa.org)

Hand hygiene compliance: We're kidding ourselves

"On the other hand, how can we possibly justify not achieving a high level of hand hygiene compliance (in excess of 95%)? Semmelweis' data should be enough to convince everybody of the importance of this simple, low-cost, high-impact intervention. "

<https://reflectionsipc.com/2017/08/21/hand-hygiene-compliance-were-kidding-ourselves/>

Research Integrity

Medical Journals Have a Fake News Problem

"With help from drug companies, Omics International is making millions as it roils the scientific community with sketchy publications."

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2017-08-29/medical-journals-have-a-fake-news-problem>

FDA signals broader crackdown on stem cell clinics

"The FDA will not allow deceitful actors to take advantage of vulnerable patients by purporting to have treatments or cures for serious diseases without any proof that they actually work," FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said in a statement. "I especially won't allow cases such as this one to go unchallenged, where we have good medical reasons to believe these purported treatments can actually harm patients and make their conditions worse."

<https://www.statnews.com/2017/08/28/smallpox-stem-cell-clinic/>

Healthcare Quality

CMS Keeps Hospital Accreditation Surveys Hidden

For now hospital accreditation surveys will remain hidden from the public view. CMS withdrew their proposed regulation and stated:

"The suggestion by CMS to have the AOs post their survey reports may appear as if CMS was attempting to circumvent the provision of section 1865(b) of the Act. Therefore, this provision is effectively being withdrawn."

For more on this topic go to Propublica: <https://www.propublica.org/article/accreditors-can-keep-their-hospital-inspection-reports-secret-feds-decide>

View Page 38498 to 38499 on this topic:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/08/14/2017-16434/medicare-program-hospital-inpatient-prospective-payment-systems-for-acute-care-hospitals-and-the>

Is your surgeon double-booked?

Washington Post: "...over the past two years, the issue of overlapping surgery — in which a doctor operates on two patients in different rooms during the same time period — has ignited an impassioned debate in the medical community, attracted scrutiny by the powerful U.S. Senate Finance committee that oversees Medicare and Medicaid, and prompted some hospitals, including the University of Virginia's, to circumscribe the practice."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/is-your-surgeon-double-booked/2017/07/10/64a753f0-3a7d-11e7-9e48-c4f199710b69_story.html

Hospitals face unprecedented turnover, attrition rates: 4 survey findings

"The largest proportion (58.2 percent) left for other reasons, such as long work hours, frustration and burnout."

<http://www.beckershospitalreview.com/human-capital-and-risk/hospitals-face-unprecedented-turnover-attrition-rates-4-survey-findings.html>

Healthcare Finances

Mergers and acquisitions trend continues among larger health organizations

The impressive appetite for mergers and acquisitions among large healthcare organizations

continued unabated through the first half of 2017.

<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/finance/pace-quickens-further-for-large-system-m-a-activity>

Health Watch USA's Sept 2017 Meeting -- Drug Safety, a Patient Advocate's Perspective.

Presentation: What I Wish We Knew Then... Woody's Perspective



Speaker: Kim Witczak will give her perspective on drug safety and FDA oversight. Kim Witczak is a leading national drug and patient safety advocate. She became involved in pharmaceutical drug safety issues after the death of her husband, Tim "Woody" Witczak in 2003 as a result of an undisclosed drug side effect. She has taken her personal experience and launched a national public awareness campaign through www.woodymatters.com, a grassroots organization dedicated to make sure the everyday patient perspective is represented in healthcare conversations.

Time: Sept. 20th, 2017 at 7:00 pm ET.

Where: Online using Adobe Connect. Using your computer's browser or mobile Adobe Connect App go to the following URL:

<http://healthwatchusa.adobeconnect.com/sept2017/>

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



The Setting Of Strong Quality Standards & Research Integrity

Nov. 3rd, 2017 at the Four Points Sheraton, Lexington, KY

Speakers to Include:

- Joycelyn Elders, MD – Past U.S. Surgeon General
- Deborah Nelson: Pulitzer prize winning investigative

reporter presenting on conflicts-of-interest and infectious disease policy. Associate Professor Investigative Journalism. University of Maryland.

Resume: <https://merrill.umd.edu/about-merrill/staff-faculty/deborah-nelson/>

- Ivan Oransky, MD -- Distinguished Writer in Residence, New York University & Co-Founder of "Retraction Watch" presenting on Characteristics and Findings of Retracted Peer-Reviewed Scientific Manuscripts.

Resume: <https://journalism.nyu.edu/about-us/profile/ivan-oransky-md/>

- Lisa McGiffert, Consumer Union's Safe Patient Project, presenting on Patient Safety and Healthcare Accountability.
Resume: <http://consumersunion.org/experts/lisa-mcgiffert/>

Presentation videos for the 2016 Conference are now online.

To view the conference presentations: Go To:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKKV6p_etRmPhxndxrvt7yeE-ICUmqzK

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