



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

## Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Oct. 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

### Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria

#### **HW USA Public Comment: Chlorhexidine Research Integrity and Medical Device Approval.**

Kevin Kavanagh, MD, MS provides a short comment on chlorhexidine research integrity, WHO recommendations for surgical antisepsis and FDA medical device approval. Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB) - Sept 14, 2017 YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/W1XHZqgVuhs>

**HW USA Public Comment: MRSA Tracking and Control.** Kevin Kavanagh, MD, MS gives a public comment at the Sept. 13, 2017 Presidential Advisory Council for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. Topics include tracking of MRSA, hand hygiene, definition of an outbreak and the importance of knowing a patient's microbiome. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/fLT8fOZrfzw>

#### **Chlorhexidine is Not an Essential Component in Hand Rubs.**

"Thus, optimized alcohol-only formulations do not require chlorhexidine to achieve potent immediate and sustained efficacy. In conclusion, chlorhexidine is not an essential component for alcohol-based surgical hand preparation."

ARIC: <https://aricjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13756-017-0258-0>

## Research Integrity

### Letter Published Raising Questions Regarding the WHO Recommendations for Chlorhexidine.

As discussed in a letter by Maiwald, et al (2017) here are three concerns which brings into question the integrity of the effort. [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(17\)30448-6/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(17)30448-6/fulltext)

1) The post hoc expansion of the time frame of data acquisition from 1990 to 2014 (in the appendices it lists the time as 1960 to 2014) to include a positive article published in 2016 (Tuuli, et al (2016) ).

([WHO Document Page 87](#)): "Although the systematic review time limits for inclusion were set to a publication date between 1990 and 15 August 2014, a relevant trial published on 4 February 2016

was exceptionally included after discussion with the WHO Guidelines Review Committee and the GDG. The GDG was confident that no additional relevant trial had been published since the systematic review set date and therefore the search was not fully updated."

2) A negative article published in 2015 (Ngai, et al (2015)) was not included in the expanded time frame.

3) Two of the included articles did not specify alcohol concentrations and there have been articles in the past performing these types of comparisons using subtherapeutic concentrations of alcohol.

## Healthcare Quality

### **Senator Charles Grassley (R Iowa) Pushes for Hospital Inspections to Be Made Public**

WSJ: "The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee is pressing for the public disclosure of hospital inspection reports, amid complaints that the nation's largest hospital accreditation group doesn't rigorously enforce health and safety standards.

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R., Iowa) asked federal regulators in a letter Monday to outline specific statutory changes that would be needed to end the confidentiality of inspection reports"

View Letter: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20170918-GrassleyLetter-09-18-2017.pdf>

WSJ: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/senator-pushes-for-hospital-inspections-to-be-made-public-1505843279>

### **Americans' Experiences with Medical Errors and Views on Patient Safety**

IHI: "Overall, 2 in 5 Americans say they have either personally experienced 2 in 5 Americans Have Either Personnel Experience a medial error or had a medical error occur in the care of someone close to them." [View Report http://www.ihl.org/about/news/Documents/IHI\\_NPSF\\_Patient\\_Safety\\_Survey\\_2017\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.ihl.org/about/news/Documents/IHI_NPSF_Patient_Safety_Survey_2017_Final_Report.pdf)

### **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](http://www.woodymatters.com), a grassroots organization dedicated to make sure the everyday patient perspective is represented in healthcare conversations. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/kgHT9rofhL0>

## The Joint Commission Rarely Revokes Accreditations

"The Joint Commission revoked accreditation for just 1% of hospitals out of compliance with Medicare. More than 30 (percent of) hospitals retained their accreditations even though the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services determined that their violations were significant enough to cause, or likely cause, serious patient injury or death."

<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/regulatory/investigation-reveals-joint-commission-unlikely-to-revoke-accreditation-from-hospitals>

WSJ Article: <http://on.wsj.com/2jalpYY>

## Healthcare Finances

### Many Kentucky's Counties Now Have Only One Insurer.

"Anthem had been the only insurance carrier to sell plans in all 120 counties on Kentucky's health exchange. Wednesday, state officials announced Anthem would sell plans in 59 counties while CareSource would sell plans in 61 counties."

Herald Leader: <http://www.kentucky.com/living/health-and-medicine/article171617537.html>

### Corporate Investors Increased Common Ownership In Hospitals And The Postacute Care And Hospice Sectors

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/36/9/1547.abstract>

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## 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/>

To register for the event go to: <http://www.healthconference.org/payment.htm>

To download the brochure: [http://www.healthconference.org/2017conference\\_downloads/Brochure.pdf](http://www.healthconference.org/2017conference_downloads/Brochure.pdf)

For more information go to: [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org)

**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](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKKV6p_etRmPhxndxrvt7yeE-ICUmqzK)

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