



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Nov. 21, 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

2017 Conference Presentations

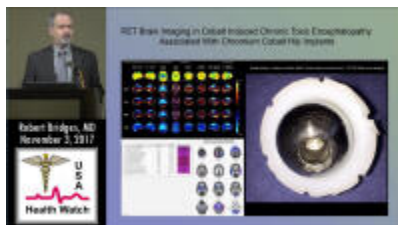


The 2017 Conference Had Some of the Most Important and Informative Presentations in the History of Health Watch USA.

Picture to the right showing [Chain Camera Pictures](#) filming patient advocate Emily Paterson's presentation.



Chris Aiello from the Rory Staunton Foundation and the National Family Council on Sepsis discusses the tragic case of his daughter Emily and steps which need to be taken for the rapid diagnosis of sepsis. Health Watch USA Conference. Nov. 3, 2017 **YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/MjpJcvF5laM>



Robert Bridges, MD discusses the PET Scan changes in patients with encephalopathy associated with cobalt chromium hip implants.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/KBA25mvOf60>



Lisa McGiffert from Consumer Reports presents on the importance of transparency and public reporting in the control of healthcare acquired infections. **YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/1eQTuVsSCI>



Kevin T. Kavanagh, MD, MS presents on the need for a better MRSA tracking system and the finding that MRSA rates are not falling as planned. **YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/yZ4E8QLAJT0>



Madris Tomes, CEO of Device Events, discusses shortcomings of the FDA's MAUDE Database along with the need for better and more timely post market monitoring of medical device safety. **YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/SecVj9 IKKc>



Stephen Tower, MD presenting on metal poisoning causing brain toxicity in hip implant patients. **YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/TIU-67zAwEs>

Health Care Infections

Health Watch USA submits a comment to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HICPAC calling for the periodic MRSA screening of healthcare workers.

Read Comment: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20171013-HICPAC-PublicComment.pdf>

Health Care Transparency

Health Watch USA and Consumer Union Advocates Submit Letter Encouraging Senator Grassley to Enact Public Access to Health Care Accreditation Surveys.

View Letter: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20171121-Hosp-Accreditation-Transparency-Grassley.pdf>



Medical Devices

Tracking Costs from Recalled Medical Devices

Roughly 1 Billion Dollars has been spent for the replacement of 7 different cardiac devices. This does not count hip and knee revisions.

<http://www.startribune.com/tracking-costs-from-recalled-medical-devices/449311113/>

The picture on the left shows a Hip Implant showing multiple areas of chromium cobalt

corrosion. Corrosion such as this can be associated with elevated cobalt levels and encephalopathy. [Click on the picture to enlarge.](#)

Healthcare Quality

Payments by US Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Manufacturers to US Medical Journal Editors: Retrospective Observational Study

"Industry payments to journal editors are common and often large, particularly for certain subspecialties. Journals should consider the potential impact of such payments on public trust in published research."

<http://www.bmj.com/content/359/bmj.i4619>

Doctor Who Faced Retaliation for Raising Concerns About Double-Booked Surgeries Wins Lawsuit

Boston Globe: "James Holsapple may be the first doctor to win a lawsuit alleging he faced retaliation for challenging the practice (double-booked surgeries)."

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/05/23/surgeon-who-raised-concerns-about-double-booked-surgeries-faced-retaliation-judge-rules/3WNp9VcupXhTfF4sW4RNdO/story.html>

Characteristics of Clinical Studies Used for US Food and Drug Administration Approval of High-Risk Medical Device Supplements.

JAMA: "Among clinical studies used to support FDA approval of high-risk medical device modifications, fewer than half were randomized, blinded, or controlled, and most primary outcomes were based on surrogate end points. These findings suggest that the quality of studies and data evaluated to support approval by the FDA of modifications of high-risk devices should be improved."

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2648630>

Healthcare Finances

Solving Healthcare's Transparency Problem

Modern Health Care: "When a patient schedules a visit with Baylor Scott & White Health, the Texas health system does something that would seem ordinary in other industries: it tells that patient what the visit or procedure will cost out of pocket."

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/reports/achieving-transparency-in-healthcare/#/>

Maryland Launches Healthcare Cost and Quality Site for Residents

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20171019/NEWS/171019852/maryland-launches-healthcare-cost-and-quality-site-for-residents>

Anthem Says No To Many Scans Done By Hospital-Owned Clinics

Shots: "Tightening the screws on pricey imaging exams, health insurer Anthem will no longer allow many patients to get MRI or CT scans at hospital-owned outpatient facilities, requiring them to use independent imaging centers instead. "

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/09/27/553483496/anthem-says-no-to-many-scans-done-by-hospital-owned-clinics>

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