



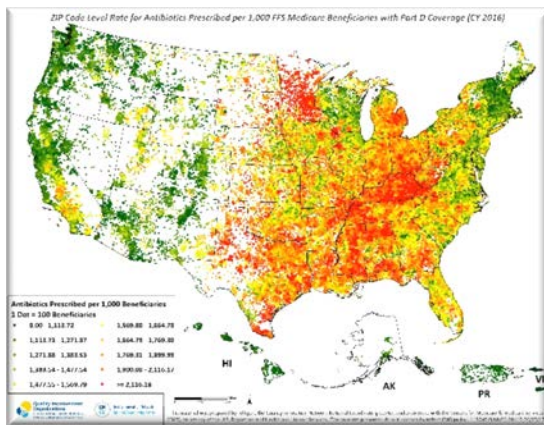
Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Jan. 25, 2018

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

Lexington Herald Leader OpEd: Survival tips in the age of drug-resistant bacteria.



There is a war going on, reminiscent of a zombie apocalypse. The insidious agent is spread easily between people, a bite is not required. It does not turn its captors into mindless killing drones but instead, when they least expect it, they are slowly eaten from the inside out. The apocalypse is called drug-resistant bacteria and, so far, modern medicine is failing miserably at stopping it.

<http://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article192221884.html>

Medicare Penalizes Group Of 751 Hospitals For Patient Injuries

Kaiser Health Care News: "The program has been very instrumental in focusing hospitals on the problems of patient safety and improved quality," said Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, board chairman of Health Watch USA, a patient advocacy group. However, he said, the financial uncertainty created by the Republican efforts to revoke the Affordable Care Act has not helped.

"Right now it's hard for hospitals to improve patient safety when there's been so much turmoil in the health care market," he said. "The hospitals have the tools and knowledge to make it better, and they should do so." <https://khn.org/news/medicare-penalizes-group-of-751-hospitals-for-patient-injuries/>

- Washington Post: https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/medicare-penalizes-group-of-751-hospitals-for-patient-injuries/2017/12/21/3293bbd8-e6ad-11e7-927a-e72eac1e73b6_story.html
- Medscape: <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/890730>

- The Advisory Board: <https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2018/01/02/latest-hac>

Los Robles hospital faces Medicare penalties for post-admission injuries

Kisken T. VC Star (Dec. 27, 2017): "I think the program has been very effective," said Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, board chairman of the Health Watch USA patient advocacy group, citing the financial pressure as well as the impact of being listed in the bottom 25 percent of the nation's hospitals for the acquired-condition scores. "There is the publicity of being the best or the worst," he said. <http://www.vcstar.com/story/news/local/2017/12/27/los-robles-hospital-faces-medicare-penalties-post-admission-injuries/978368001/>

San Antonio Hospitals Penalized For High Patient Injury Rates

Rivard Report (Jan. 21, 2018): "Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, board chairman of Health Watch USA, a patient advocacy group, told the Rivard Report that the penalties are important because they provide financial motivation for better performance, help create transparency about the quality and type of care being provided, and promote what is "just for society."

"Penalties are not given out at random. Poor performing institutions sometimes have to transform into a higher functioning facility," Kavanagh said, noting that without penalties, poor care may become normalized. "You shouldn't get paid top dollar for a service that is not top dollar."

Kavanagh said that many "front line" hospitals throughout the country that take care of high-risk and often low-income patients perform well in terms of patient injuries, and that "just because [they are] taking care of poor populations doesn't mean that they should be delivering poor care." Instead, he believes that the hospitals that find themselves on the list need to work toward acquiring the resources needed to perform better."

<https://therivardreport.com/san-antonio-hospitals-penalized-for-high-patient-injury-rates/>

Healthcare Quality

Dangerous CRE Outbreak In Kentucky. We hear about it over a year later.

CDC MMWR, Jan. 5, 2018: "On August 11, 2016, two *Klebsiella pneumoniae* carbapenemase (KPC)–producing CP-CRE isolates from clinical cultures were reported from patients hospitalized at a rural, community hospital in Kentucky; CRE had not been identified previously at this facility. During the next 4 months, an additional 21 CRE isolates were identified from facility patients, resulting in a total of 23 isolates, including 17 *K. pneumoniae*, five *Escherichia coli*, and one *Enterobacter cloacae* isolate. Seventeen (74%) of these isolates were identified through patient screening cultures; the rest were from clinical cultures."

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm665152a5.htm?s_cid=mm665152a5_e

Infection Lapses Rampant In Nursing Homes But Punishment Is Rare

A Kaiser Health News analysis of federal inspection records shows that nursing home inspectors labeled mistakes in infection control as serious for only 161 of the 12,056 homes they have cited since 2014.

<https://khn.org/news/infection-lapses-rampant-in-nursing-homes-but-punishment-is-rare/>

Leilani Schweitzer: How Can Hospitals Be More Transparent About Medical Errors?

TED TALK: "Leilani Schweitzer lost her son due to a medical error. She says the hospital's honesty

and openness helped her heal. She now works to provide that level of honesty to patients at the same hospital.."

<https://youtu.be/qmaY9DEzBzl>

In 3 States, If Anthem Thinks You Shouldn't Have Gone To ER, It Won't Pay

Glatter R. Forbes: "When you decide to make a trip to the ER for symptoms such as chest pain or difficulty breathing, you do it because you are concerned that this could potentially be a life-threatening..." But after testing, "one insurance company that is creating a list of specific diagnoses they are choosing not to cover."

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/robertglatter/2017/10/16/anthem-at-odds-with-your-decision-to-visit-the-er-and-refusing-to-pay-in-certain-states/#5574bab14356>

Health Watch USA Feb Meeting - Reporting of Medical Errors.



Presentation Title: "Iowans' Views on Medical Errors – Iowa Patient Safety Study©
Presenter: David Lind, B.S. Founder Heartland Health Research Institute

David Lind is founder of [Heartland Health Research Institute](#) a non-profit research and education firm that focuses on a broad spectrum of health care issues in Iowa and surrounding states. David has spent 34 years in the health insurance and healthcare arena.

Time: 7:00 PM ET on Feb. 21, 2018. We will be using new conferencing software. To attend, send an E-Mail to healthwatchusa@gmail.com We will send you login instructions as the event approaches.

Download Study: <http://eepurl.com/c9e3ej>

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