



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

## Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Feb. 26, 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

### Proposed Metric for Measurement of Hospital Acquired Pressure Injury

Feb. 2018. Health Watch USA supports the development of a proposed new nursing sensitive metric for the measurement of pressure ulcers. The 2017 to 2018 CMS Technical Expert Panel proposed the new metric, which requires reporting of Stage II through Stage IV pressure injuries. Below is a copy of HW USA's Comment and Support Letter:

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20180128-PublicComment-CMS-PressureInjuryMetic.pdf>



### Reporting of Medical Errors - The Iowa Study

David Lind, Founder of the Heartland Health Research Institute presents the results of Iowans' views on the reporting and transparency of medical errors. Health Watch USA Meeting - Feb. 21, 2018. YouTube Video:

<https://youtu.be/SuMV6pz7itg>

#### **What Can Iowa Lawmakers Do About Medical Errors?**

Without concrete data on medical errors, we don't know how many people are affected or whether any efforts are successful in reducing mistakes." OpEd Des Moines Register, David Lind:

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2018/02/19/what-can-iowa-lawmakers-do-medical-errors/351269002/>

### Infectious Disease

#### **Reuters Investigative Report on The MRSA Epidemic Wins The Kavli Science Journalism Award From The American Association for the Advancement of Science**

The award was given to Ryan McNeill, Deborah J. Nelson, Yasmeen Abutaleb and the Reuters team for their series on the MRSA Epidemic. Health Watch USA participated in the report regarding chlorhexidine recommendations and conflicts of interest. "...for a series on the emergence of "superbug" infections and – in the absence of a unified national surveillance system – the failure of

federal and state health authorities to adequately track such infections. Hundreds of thousands of antibiotic-resistant infections and tens of thousands of related deaths go uncounted each year, the team found." <https://sjawards.aaas.org/2017winners>

The investigative reports in the series are:

1) The Uncounted: 'Superbug' scourge spreads as U.S. fails to track rising human toll. <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-uncounted-surveillance/>

2) Money from infection-control industry muddies research into beating back superbugs Reuters News Service. Apr. 7, 2017. <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-superbugs-research/>

### **What YOU Need to Know about Sepsis**

YouTube Video by MedStar: <https://youtu.be/HpTnBZnZCgg>

### **Infection Lapses Rampant In Nursing Homes But Punishment is Rare**

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

## **Conflicts-of-Interest**

### **Opioid makers gave \$10 million to drug advocacy groups amid epidemic**

"...nearly \$9 million in payments from these manufacturers to 14 outside groups working on chronic pain and other opioid-related issues between 2012 and 2017. In addition, physicians affiliated with these groups accepted more than \$1.6 million in payments from the five manufacturers between 2013 and the present. In total, the five manufacturers have made more than \$10 million in payments to these groups and affiliated individuals since January 2012." [Download Report](#)

### **Conflicts of Interest and The High Blood Pressure Industry**

"When I read the new blood pressure guideline published by the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association (AHA) in November, just five minutes of Internet searching exposed that six of the guideline's authors had financial relationships with corporations that were not mentioned in the publication, as is generally required by the ACC, AHA and the medical journals in which the guideline was published."

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-op-0205-financial-relationships-20180131-story.html>

## **Healthcare Safety**

### **System to screen and credential newly-hired doctors can miss previous sexual assault allegations, Ohio State case shows**

<http://www.cleveland.com/healthfit/index.ssf/2018/01/system-to-screen-and-credentia.html>

## Date For Health Watch USA Fall Conference Set - October 4, 2018.

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