



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

## Newsletter

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

### Multi-drug Resistant Bacteria - Incidence, Prevalence and Healthcare Transformation

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USA discusses the epidemic of multi-drug resistant organisms and their prevention, projected economic impact and patient mortality. In depth discussion is given to C. Difficile, CRE and MRSA. Somerset Community College Public Presentation - Given March 19, 2018. Download PowerPoint Slides: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Community/PDF-Downloads/20180313-MDRO-SCC-12.pdf>

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/FoBOjMqR7sU>

CDC Vital Signs Report on Antibiotic Resistance: <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/antibiotic-resistance.html>

### Health Watch USA's Comment Regarding The Measurement of Bed Ulcer Formation in Hospitals

Health Watch USA's Comment in support of the proposed measurement on pressure ulcer formation in hospitals has been posted online. View

Comment: <https://oncprojectracking.healthit.gov/support/browse/PCQM-677>

### U.S. House of Representatives To Hold Hearings on the Quality of Hospital Accreditation.

Health Watch USA has sent a cover letter along with a number of petition letters regarding the issue of transparency of hospital accreditation surveys to U.S. House Representative Greg Walden, Chairman of the Energy & Commerce Committee.

View Cover Letter: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/HospitalSurveyTransparency/20180314-Representative-Greg-Walden.pdf>

View Supporting Documents:

1. 2011 Petition Letter to Senator Tom Harkin: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA->

[Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/HospitalSurveyTransparency/20110910-Senator Tom Harkin-Post-2.pdf](#)

2. 2011 Petition Letter to Senator Mitch

McConnell: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/HospitalSurveyTransparency/20111118-Senator Mitch McConnell.pdf>

3. 2017 Petition Letter to Senator Orin Hatch: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/HospitalSurveyTransparency/20171216-Hosp-Accreditation-Transparency-Hatch.pdf>

4. 2011 Response from CMS: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/HospitalSurveyTransparency/20111121-CMS-response.pdf>

5. 2011 Response from The Joint Commission: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/HospitalSurveyTransparency/20120402-TJC-Letter.pdf>

### **View Wall Street Journal's News Article on the U.S. House Investigation:**

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/house-panel-probes-organizations-that-accredit-most-u-s-hospitals-1520871334>

## **Health Care Finances**

### **Health Care Spending in the United States and Other High Income Countries.**

JAMA: "The United States spent approximately twice as much as other high-income countries on medical care, yet utilization rates in the United States were largely similar to those in other nations. Prices of labor and goods, including pharmaceuticals, and administrative costs appeared to be the major drivers ...."

View Video: <https://jamanetwork.com/learning/video-player/16259949>

View Article: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2674671>

### **Getting Sick Can Be Really Expensive, Even for the Insured**

New York Times: "Beyond medical costs, a trip to the hospital can mean a permanent reduction in income for many Americans, new research shows." "On average, people in their 50s who are admitted to the hospital will experience a 20 percent drop in income that persists for years. "

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/21/upshot/getting-sick-is-really-expensive.html>

Source Research:

[http://faculty.wcas.northwestern.edu/noto/research/DFKN\\_hospital\\_admissions\\_june2017.pdf](http://faculty.wcas.northwestern.edu/noto/research/DFKN_hospital_admissions_june2017.pdf)

## **Healthcare Safety**

### **An Epidemic of Errors**

Iowa Business Record - March 23, 2018 "According to a report released in January by Clive-based Heartland Health Research Institute, nearly 1 in 5 Iowa adults surveyed said they have experienced some degree of medical error in the past five years." Download Report: <https://hhri.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/An-epidemic-of-ERRORS-3-23-18.pdf>

## **US Antibiotic-Resistant Infection Treatment Costs Doubled Between 2002 And 2014 - Now exceeding 2 Billion Dollars.**

"We found that antibiotic resistance added \$1,383 to the cost of treating a patient with a bacterial infection. Using our estimate of the number of such infections in 2014, this amounts to a national cost of \$2.2 billion annually."

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2017.1153?journalCode=hlthaff>

## **Nurse Staffing and Quality: In Conversation With... Linda Aiken, PhD, RN. PS NET:**

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/perspectives/perspective/244>

## **Yearlong investigation identifies 500 doctors who elude consequences**

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/statesofdisgrace/71418>

## **Healthcare Overuse of Antibiotics & Opioids**

### **America Has Two Opioid Epidemics**

Commonwealth Fund: "The first is the prescription-drug epidemic — highly visible to the public, and more likely to occur among older adults in rural, white communities who misuse prescription painkillers. The second, more recently emerging epidemic, is among younger adults who are victims of illegally produced opioids such as

fentanyl." <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/blog/2018/mar/federal-response-to-opioids>

### **'Dead in bed' common term in hospitals. Here's why patients should know about it.**

Kansas City Star: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/health-care/article203189944.html>

### **Opportunities to Improve Fluoroquinolone Prescribing in the United States for Adult Ambulatory Care Visits**

Clinical Infectious Disease: "An estimated 5.1% of adult ambulatory fluoroquinolone prescriptions were for conditions that did not require antibiotics, and 19.9% were for conditions where fluoroquinolones are not recommended first-line therapy. Unnecessary fluoroquinolone use should be reduced."

<https://academic.oup.com/cid/advance-article/doi/10.1093/cid/ciy035/4823098>

<http://bit.ly/2F3RMmW>

### **CDC Launches NEW Antibiotic Use Training Course Plus Free Continuing Education**

"CDC's Office of Antibiotic Stewardship recently launched the first section of a web-based training course on Antibiotic Stewardship. Three additional sections will be released throughout 2018. To register and take the course online, create an account at <http://bit.ly/2BsVcOz> "

### **When Antibiotics Turn Toxic**

**Commonly prescribed drugs called fluoroquinolones cause rare, disabling side effects. Researchers are struggling to work out why.**

Nature: "Three weeks later, after she had returned home to Amsterdam, her Achilles tendons started to hurt, then her knees and shoulders. She developed shooting pains in her legs and feet, as

well as fatigue and depression." <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-03267-5>

## Health Watch USA April Meeting - Apr. 18, 2018.

### Are You Considering a Hysterectomy? Beware, Uterine Fibroids are not all Benign!



Speaker: Sarah Robinson, RN "1 in 350 hysterectomies GYN diagnosed "benign fibroids", will harbor a deadly rare cancer called Sarcoma. The FDA in 2014 "black boxed" the Power Morcellator tool used predominantly by GYN surgeons because it inadvertently spread a "hidden" undiagnosed deadly Sarcoma "disguised" as a benign fibroid. Although there is no existing test to rule out Sarcoma, if caught early without spread, Sarcoma is curative. Do say "NO" to your GYN surgeon who offers you a cosmetic "bikini incision" laproscopic hysterectomy, a surgery which uses the power morcellator tool to grind your uterus into smaller pieces removed from "keyhole" incisions. Your life may depend on it"

April 18, 2018. 7:00 PM ET.

To attend use link: <http://healthwatchusa.adobeconnect.com/april2018/>

## Health Watch USA May Meeting - May 16, 2018.



**Speaker: John Santa, MD, MS, Director of Dissemination, from Open Notes will present on the the Open Notes Project.**

<https://www.opennotes.org/family/john-santa-md-mph/>  
Patient notes contain the information which the doctor writes about the patient in the medical record. It is a free form narrative and contains the doctor's thoughts and observations. 'Open' means the patient and his providers have access to them. "OpenNotes is an international movement advocating fundamental change in the way visit notes are managed. We're committed to spreading the availability of open visit notes and studying the effects. We believe that providing ready access to notes can empower patients, families, and caregivers to feel more in control of their healthcare decisions, and improve the quality and safety of care."

<https://www.opennotes.org/about/>

Meeting May 16, 2018 7:00 PM ET.

# Health Watch USA Annual Conference - October 4, 2018.

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