



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org April. 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-Resistant Drug Organisms



What You Need To Know About Drug Resistant Bacteria: Kevin Kavanagh, MD from Health Watch USA discusses the causes and characteristics of the epidemic of multi-drug resistant organisms, along with the cost to society if systemwide measures are not implemented to bring the epidemic under control. Edited version with pertinent PowerPoint slides. Jack Pattie Show - WVLC-AM March 28, 2018. YouTube

Video <https://youtu.be/KDZUb5shG0k>

CDC Releases New Vital Signs Report on Drug Resistant Bacteria.



The report advocates a very aggressive approach to combat the emergence of the nightmare bacteria CRE:

Vital Signs: "Place patients with unusual resistance on contact precautions, assess and enhance infection control, and work with the health department to screen others. Communicate about status when patients are transferred. Continue infection control assessments and colonization screenings until spread is controlled. Ask about any recent travel or health care to identify at-risk patients." [View/Download Report](#)

CDC: Rare superbugs more common than previously believed

Wall Street Journal: "Strains of so-called "nightmare bacteria" that harbor extremely rare forms of antibiotic resistance are more common than previously known in the U.S., public-health officials said Tuesday. But they said aggressive measures can stop the bacteria from becoming widespread."

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/rare-superbugs-more-widespread-than-thought-says-cdc-1522783961>

CDC says its steps have limited the spread of 'nightmare' bacteria

"In a new Vital Signs report, CDC researchers said that overall, more than 1,400 isolates of carbapenemase-producing bacteria were identified from clinical samples from 32 states during the first 9 months of 2017. "

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2018/04/cdc-says-its-steps-have-limited-spread-nightmare-bacteria>

CDDEP Weekly Digest: Human consumption of antibiotics up 65% in fifteen years

"In this study, we analyzed the trends and drivers of antibiotic consumption from 2000 to 2015 in 76 countries and projected total global antibiotic consumption through 2030. Between 2000 and 2015, antibiotic consumption, expressed in defined daily doses (DDD), increased 65% (21.1–34.8 billion DDDs), and the antibiotic consumption rate increased 39% (11.3–15.7 DDDs per 1,000 inhabitants per day)."

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2018/03/20/1717295115>

America's Opioid Epidemic



'Roseanne' reflects how much opioid use is now engrained

Lexington Herald Leader OpEd: "I know from studying the science and personal experience that prescription narcotics are not an effective treatment for chronic pain. Yet, narcotic usage has become rampant and even trivialized as a laugh line on the "Roseanne" reboot .."

(Picture is screen shot from the premiere of "Roseanne," - ABC

) <http://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article208884404.html>

For Chronic Pain, A Change In Habits Can Beat Opioids For Relief

NPR: "Roughly a third of Americans live with chronic pain, and many of them become dependent on opioids prescribed to treat it. But there's a growing consensus among pain specialists that a low-tech approach focused on lifestyle changes can be more effective."

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/04/06/599850185/for-chronic-pain-a-change-in-habits-can-beat-opioids-for-relief>

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](#)

Astroturf Patient Advocacy Groups ??

Patient Advocacy Groups Take In Millions From Drug Makers. Is There A Payback?

"KHN launches "Pre\$cription for Power," a groundbreaking database to expose Big Pharma's ties to patient groups. Pharmaceutical companies gave at least \$116 million to patient advocacy groups in a single year, reveals a new database logging 12,000 donations from large publicly traded drug makers to such organizations."

Go To Database To Look Up Group <https://khn.org/news/patient-advocacy-groups-take-in-millions-from-drugmakers-is-there-a-payback/>

How Profiteers Lure Women Into Often-Unneeded Vaginal Mesh Surgery

New York Times, Goldstein M, Silver-Greenberg J. April 14, 2018. "Jerri Plummer was at home in Arkansas, watching television with her three children, when a stranger called to warn that her life was in danger. The caller identified herself only as Yolanda. She told Ms. Plummer that the vaginal mesh implant supporting her bladder was defective and needed to be removed. If Ms. Plummer didn't act quickly, the caller urged, she might die." <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/14/business/vaginal-mesh-surgery-lawsuits-financing.html>

Similar Reuter's Special Report: Investors profit by funding surgery for desperate women patients. Frankel A, Dye J. July 2013: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-litigation-mesh-specialreport/special-report-investors-profit-by-funding-surgery-for-desperate-women-patients-idUSKCN0QN1QT20150818>

Healthcare Safety



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

Speaker: Sarah Robinson, PA "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" Health Watch USA Meeting April. 18, 2018. YouTube Video: https://youtu.be/UGLeYr_dGEI

Australia investigates implants (mesh) that left some women with 'rotting pelvises'

CNN: <https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/28/health/pelvic-mesh-implant-australia-senate-intl/index.html>

Healthcare Finance

Bill Of The Month: A Tale Of 2 CT Scanners — One Richer, One Poorer

NPR Shots: "He got the first scan at a stand-alone imaging center his doctor recommended. The findings were inconclusive, and the bill was \$268. The second CT scan, taken a few months later at his local hospital, was also inconclusive. The listed price for the imaging this time: \$8,897."

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/04/09/598794123/bill-of-the-month-a-tale-of-2-ct-scanners-one-richer-one-poorer>

Why does the U.S. spend so much more on healthcare? It's the prices

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20180407/NEWS/180409939>

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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.

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

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