



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org June 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

Healthcare Associated Infections

These Kentucky hospitals had more MRSA infections than almost all others in the U.S.



Herald Leader: "Kentucky's two biggest hospital systems had some of the country's highest instances of an often deadly bacterial bloodstream infection known as MRSA in fiscal year 2017. The University of Kentucky Chandler Hospital and Norton Healthcare in Louisville each had 40 MRSA bloodstream infections between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, according to federal data from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services." <http://www.kentucky.com/news/state/article212255844.html>

Trump Administration Rule Could Stop Public Reporting of Hospital Infections Despite Death Toll

USA Today: "The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) plan, part of a [complex 500-page proposed rule](#), could halt the public disclosure of the "super bug" MRSA, post-operative sepsis and surgical site infections, as well as accidents and injuries ranging from bedsores to respiratory failure after surgery." <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/06/19/feds-oppose-public-reporting-hospital-infections/710682002/>

Read Health Watch USA's & PSAN's Comment on the Proposed CMS Regulations:

Health Watch USA: "Our position in general is that consumers and patients need more information about medical harm, not less. Current public reporting covers only a fraction of the estimated eight million patients harmed each year while being treated in hospitals for some other condition. Every effort should be made to retain outcome metrics, which require hospitals to undertake a large number of processes to obtain a good outcome. There would be less impact on patient safety and relieve a greater burden of facility reporting, if CMS focused on eliminating process metrics instead. "

View Download: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20180625-Letter-CMS-Regs-Submitted1.pdf>

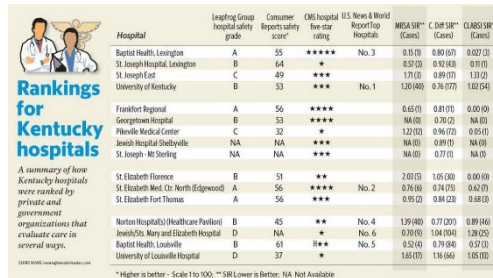
The LeapFrog Group's Comment Letter Regarding the New Regulations.

View Download: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20180625-LeapFrog-CommentLetter-2.pdf>

The LeapFrog Group's Detailed Analysis Letter Regarding the New Regulations.

View Download: http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20180625-DetailedLetter_TheLeapfrogGroup_Final.pdf

How to choose a hospital (spoiler: it's not getting any easier)



Rankings for Kentucky hospitals

A summary of how Kentucky hospitals were ranked by private and government organizations that evaluate care in several ways.

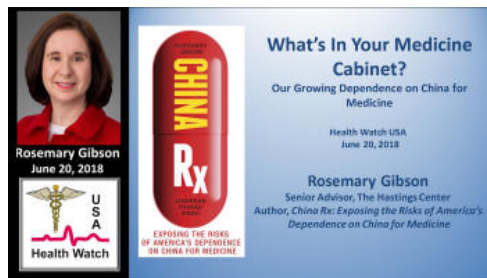
Hospital	Leapfrog Group hospital safety grade	Consumer Reports safety score*	CMS hospital five-star rating	U.S. News & World Report Top Hospitals	MRSA SIR** (Cases)	C. Diff SIR** (Cases)	CLABSI SIR** (Cases)
Baptist Health, Lexington	A	55	*****	No. 3	0.15 (1)	0.89 (67)	0.07 (3)
St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington	B	64	*		0.23 (2)	0.76 (48)	0.11 (1)
St. Joseph East	C	49	***		1.71 (3)	0.89 (17)	1.31 (2)
University of Kentucky	B	53	***	No. 1	1.00 (48)	0.76 (17)	1.02 (4)
Frankfort Regional	A	56	****		0.65 (1)	0.81 (1)	0.00 (0)
Georgetown Hospital	B	53	****		NA (0)	0.70 (2)	NA (0)
Pikeville Medical Center	C	32	**		1.22 (1)	0.96 (7)	0.95 (1)
Joseph Hospital, Louisville	NA	NA	****		NA (0)	0.95 (1)	NA (0)
St. Joseph - Mt. Sterling	NA	NA	***		NA (0)	0.71 (1)	NA (1)
St. Elizabeth Florence	B	51	**		2.03 (2)	1.05 (10)	0.00 (0)
St. Elizabeth Med. Ctr. North Edgewood	A	56	****	No. 2	0.76 (8)	0.74 (7)	0.42 (1)
St. Elizabeth Fort Thomas	A	56	****		0.95 (2)	0.84 (28)	0.68 (3)
Norton Hospital(s)/Healthcare Pavilion	B	45	**	No. 4	1.91 (40)	0.77 (10)	0.89 (4)
Joseph/St. Mary and Elizabeth Hospital	D	NA	*	No. 6	0.70 (1)	1.04 (14)	1.28 (2)
Baptist Health, Louisville	B	61	***	No. 5	0.53 (4)	0.79 (8)	0.37 (1)
University of Louisville Hospital	D	37	*		1.65 (17)	1.76 (64)	1.05 (1)

*Higher is better - Scale 1 to 100. **SIR Lower is Better. NA, Not Available.

Herald Leader: "Even in Kentucky's leading hospitals, infections rates are alarming, which makes it even harder for patients to be smart consumers. At some point, almost all of us will seek treatment at a hospital. And it is hard to decide which one to choose. Do not expect an unbiased opinion from your health-care provider, since most are now employees of the facility." <http://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article212390399.html>

Health Care Safety and Advocacy

China RX: Is Our Drug Supply Safe? Rosemary Gibson



Award winning author Rosemary Gibson discusses here new book China Rx, an investigative report into the dependence on China for the provision of crucial medications and the difficulties it creates for FDA oversight and more importantly for national security. Health Watch USA Presentation. June 21, 2018.

View YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/K6sqjBoWMm4>

Opioid Analgesics and Adverse Outcomes Among Hemodialysis Patients.

CJASN: "All agents were associated with a significantly higher hazard of altered mental status, and several agents were associated with a significantly higher hazard of fall and fracture. Opioids were associated with adverse outcomes in patients on hemodialysis, and this risk was present even at lower dosing and for agents that guidelines have recommended for use." <http://cjasn.asnjournals.org/content/13/5/746.long>

PubMed Listing: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29674340>

The European Medicines Agency Holds Hearings on quinolone antibiotic Toxicity.

The hearing comes after the 2016 FDA actions which updated the warning label, advised against using quinolones when other options are available and created the term FQAD (Fluoroquinolone Associated Disability). Health Canada also recently took similar actions.

<https://youtu.be/1vao8o5NGUc>

Adverse Drug Events in U.S. Hospitals, 2010 Versus 2014

"Compared with inflation-adjusted hospital costs in 2010, the average cost for an inpatient stay involving an adverse drug event (ADE) that originated during the stay was 27.0 percent higher in 2014 (\$28,089 vs. \$22,115). For stays in which the ADE was present on admission, the average hospital cost was 14.9 percent higher in 2014 than in 2010 (\$13,308 vs. \$11,577). "

View Download: <https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb234-Adverse-Drug-Events.pdf>

JAMA Forum: Prognosis Is Guarded for California’s “Patient’s Right to Know Act”

JAMA Forum: "Historically, most patients have been unaware that if their physician or other licensed clinician has been on probation for such reasons as substance abuse, sexual misconduct, or avoidable medical errors, it’s up to them to seek that information out. Fewer still know enough to probe the website of the relevant state medical board."

<https://newsatjama.jama.com/2018/06/06/jama-forum-prognosis-is-guarded-for-californias-patients-right-to-know-act/>

=====

Health Watch USA Fall Conference - October 4, 2018.

Health Watch USA is hosting their annual Healthcare Transparency and Patient Safety Conference on Thursday, October 4 in Lexington, KY. We are calling for submission of abstracts by potential speakers on topics relating to patient safety and advocacy for consideration to present. Conference presentations can be 30 or 60 minutes. If you are interested, please send a brief abstract with learning objectives to heather.norris@eku.edu by July 15, 2018

Authors will be notified of acceptance or declination by Aug. 1, 2018

Thank you!

=====+*****+=====

To subscribe to Health Watch USAsm newsletter go to:

<http://www.hwusa-newsletter.org/lists/?p=subscribe&id=1>



Visit and "Like" HW USA's Facebook Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/HealthWatchUsa>

