



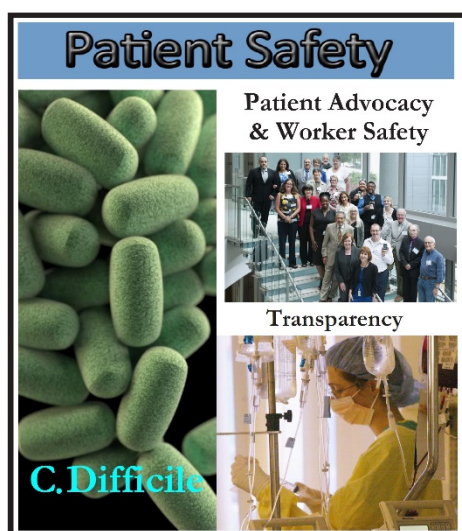
# Health Watch USA Newsletter

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

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

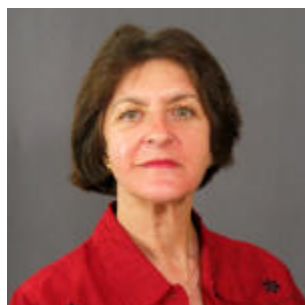


Join us for our 12th Annual Patient Safety Conference in Lexington, Kentucky, to be held at the Eastside Library.

Registration Fee: \$25, including a dinner from COSI plus snacks.  
Conference Website: [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org)

For more information, download the conference brochure: <http://www.healthconference.org/pushbuttons/button7qq.jpg>

Keynote Speakers: [Full Agenda](#)



**Christine Pontus, RN and Jonathan Rosen, MS: The intersection of Occupational Hazards for Nurses, Safe Staffing and Infection Control.**

In this session we will review key occupational hazards confronting Registered Nurses and detail the effect they have on the wellbeing of nurses and patients. Healthcare has a greater prevalence of occupational injury and illness than manufacturing, construction, or mining. The negative impact of inadequate RN staffing on several key patient outcomes has been documented in the peer reviewed literature. However, the impact of Healthcare Acquired Infections on Registered Nurses and healthcare workers is not currently being tracked and research on the effectiveness of occupational control measures is sparse.



**Jayne O'Donnell (Left):** What I've Learned Covering Patient Safety (and the Lessons It Holds for Safety Advocates).

**Joycelyn Elders, Past US Surgeon General (Right):** The Importance of Patient Advocacy.



**Lisa Danielpour:** How Open Notes and the Patient Portal Improve Safety and Outcomes. The Personal Health Record and OpenNotes can provide essential information, transparency and tools to improve patient safety and health outcomes. We know patients and family leave office visits or hospital stays not retaining much of the information shared. Giving patients and family access to OpenNotes – full chart notes through the online patient portal – offers a holistic understanding often not covered by a visit summary. OpenNotes ensures everyone is on the same page and that the care plan is clear, even when families

and clinicians are not in agreement.

**Conference Hotel: Towneplace Suites, Lexington, KY, Hamburg Shopping Center.** <http://www.healthconference.org/facility.htm>



## Health Care Safety and Advocacy

### **Doctors, hospitals sue patients who post negative comments, reviews on social media**

USA Today: "Retired Air Force Colonel David Antoon agreed to pay \$100 to settle what were felony charges for emailing his former Cleveland Clinic surgeon articles the doctor found threatening and posting a list on Yelp of all the surgeries the urologist had scheduled at the same time as the one that left Antoon incontinent and impotent a decade ago."

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/07/18/doctors-hospitals-sue-patients-posting-negative-online-comments/763981002/>

### **Most patient family members hesitant to express safety concerns, study finds**

Becker's Hospital Review: "Although nearly two-thirds of ICU patients and families reported feeling very comfortable discussing medications, only about one-third of respondents said they felt very comfortable discussing hand hygiene or disagreements about aggressiveness of care desired by patients/families versus care clinicians proposed."

<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/quality/most-patient-family-members-hesitant-to-express-safety-concerns-study-finds.html>

## HHS Plans to Delete 20 Years of Critical Medical Guidelines Next Week

Daily Beast: "Experts say the database of carefully curated medical guidelines is one of a kind, used constantly by medical professionals, and on July 16 will 'go dark' due to budget cuts."

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/hhs-plans-to-delete-20-years-of-critical-medical-guidelines-next-week>

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

"The Food and Drug Administration warned against fluoroquinolone use for conditions with effective alternative agents. 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."

Kabbani S, Hersh AL, Shapiro DJ, Fleming-Dutra KE, Pavia AT, Hicks LA. Opportunities to Improve Fluoroquinolone Prescribing in the United States for Adult Ambulatory Care Visits. Clin Infect Dis. 2018 Jun 18;67(1):134-136. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciy035.

## Healthcare Finances

### Can A Community Hospital Stick To Its Mission When It Goes For-Profit?

**Shots:** "Mergers solve some problems for hospitals, but they don't make health care less expensive or better. In fact, prices usually go up."

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/07/19/629675648/can-a-community-hospital-stick-to-its-mission-when-it-goes-for-profit>

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## Health Watch USA Meeting - Aug. 15, 2018 - 7:00 PM ET.

[Update on Conference Planning and a Patient Advocate Presentation:](#)

[To attend please send an email to heathwatchusa@gmail.com](mailto:heathwatchusa@gmail.com)

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