



Health Watch USA Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Aug. 12, 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.

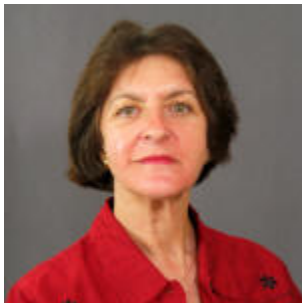
Registration Fee: \$25, including a dinner from COSI plus snacks.

Conference Website: www.healthconference.org

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

Three of HW USA's National Initiatives are On the Move and May Have Favorable Outcomes for Patients.

1. CMS places on hold their recommendations to roll back infectious disease reporting. USA Today coverage of HW USA's efforts and the favorable outcome: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/08/03/feds-plan-reverse-plan-release-hospital-infection-data/897080002/>

Read HW USA & PSAN's Comment Letter: "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>

2. CMS asking for Comments on Transparency of Hospital Accreditation Surveys.

CMS States: "We also are making changes relating to transparency of accrediting organization survey reports and plans of correction of providers and suppliers; electronic signature and electronic submission of the Certification and Settlement Summary page of the Medicare cost reports; and clarification of provider disposal of assets."

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/FY2018-IPPS-Final-Rule-Home-Page-Items/FY2018-IPPS-Final-Rule-Regulations.html>

Read Two of HW USA's Comment Letters:

-- Sept. 2011 http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20110910-Senator_Tom_Harkin-Post-2.pdf

- Oct. 2011 http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20111118NS_Senator_Mitch_McConnell.pdf
- Jul. 2014 <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20140718-Grassley-Letterhead.pdf>
- Nov. 2017 <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20171121-Hosp-Accreditation-Transparency-Grassley.pdf>

3. CMS asking for Comments Regarding the Issue of Differing Payments Between Doctor Owned vs Physician Owned Practices.

(CMS proposes site-neutral payments in OPPI rule aimed at boosting provider competition. <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/payer/cms-proposes-making-opps-and-asc-payments-site-neutral-expanding-340b-rule>)

CMS States: P639: "We are concerned that challenges continue to exist for patients due to insufficient price transparency. Such challenges include patients being surprised by out-of-network bills for physicians, such as anesthesiologists and radiologists, who provide services at in-network hospitals and other settings, and patients being surprised by facility fees, (CMS-1695-P 640) physician fees for emergency department visits, or by fees for provider and supplier services that the beneficiary might consider to be a part of an episode of care involving a hospitalization but that are not services furnished by the hospital".

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/2018-15958-CMS-OutpatientServices.pdf>

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