



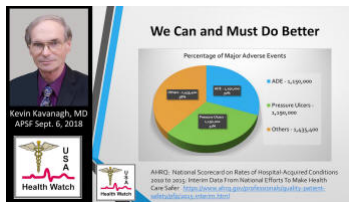
# Health Watch USA Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Sept. 17, 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

## Preventable Hospital Mortality -- Presentation Before the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation.



Kevin Kavanagh, MD, MS, from Health Watch USA presents on Preventable Hospital Mortality. Preventable deaths are far too common. Little if any improvement has taken place since the 1999 Institute of Medicine's report which found between 44,000 and 98,000 preventable deaths. The figure may be even higher with multiple studies showing the rate to approximate 200,000 deaths per year. There have been far too many excuses and too little action.

The Leapfrog Group estimates that over 33,000 lives would be saved if all hospitals functioned at a similar level to their group of highest performing hospitals. Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation. Sept. 5, 2018.

View YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/bndnpO-hr8Y>

Download Handout: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Community/PDF-Downloads/20180908-APSF-Preventable-Hospital-Mortality-Handout.pdf>

## Conflicts of Interest & Research Integrity

### Conflicts of interest in infection prevention and control research: No smoke without fire.

Intensive Care Medicine: "Finally, the analysis of reasons for the retraction of previously published papers highlights the fact that misconduct in research may have other motivations than financial gain, the most visible form of (Conflicts-of-Interests) COIs. COIs occur in the field of research in general, and (Infection Prevention and Control) IPC and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) are no exceptions. Their effects pervade all aspects of the research and publication processes.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00134-018-5361-z>

### Turmoil erupts over expulsion of member from leading evidence-based medicine group with expulsion of co-founder.

Stat News: "The expulsion of Peter Gøtzsche sparked accusations that the Collaboration is too friendly toward the drug industry. Four other members of the organization's governing board resigned in response, citing concerns that the action "goes against Cochrane ethos."

<https://www.statnews.com/2018/09/16/expulsion-cochrane-peter-gotzsche-medicine>

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/09/evidence-based-medicine-group-turmoil-after-expulsion-co-founder>

## **Hidden conflicts? Pharma payments to FDA advisers after drug approvals spark ethical concerns**

Pillar C, You J, Science: "Of 107 physician advisers who voted on the committees Science examined, 40 over a nearly 4-year period received more than \$10,000 in post hoc earnings or research support from the makers of drugs that the panels voted to approve, or from competing firms; 26 of those gained more than \$100,000; and seven more than \$1 million."

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/07/hidden-conflicts-pharma-payments-fda-advisers-after-drug-approvals-spark-ethical>

## **CMS: Doctors, hospitals received \$8.4B in payments from drug companies last year**

Fierce Healthcare: "The 2017 payments included nearly \$4.7 billion in research related payments, \$2.82 billion in non-research-related payments and more than \$927 million representing ownership or investment interests held by physicians or their immediate family members, according to CMS data."

<https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals-health-systems/here-s-how-much-payments-doctors-took-from-pharma-last-year>

## **NEJM doubles down on refusal to retract article Dartmouth says is plagiarized**

<https://www.statnews.com/2018/09/14/nejm-refuse-retract-gilbert-welch-dartmouth/>

## **Russian bots are taking aim at U.S. public health**

State News: "This effort, to create doubt among Americans about the effectiveness of vaccines, was described in an article in last month's American Journal of Public Health."

<https://www.statnews.com/2018/09/14/russian-bots-public-health-vaccines/>

## **Weaponized Health Communication: Twitter Bots and Russian Trolls Amplify the Vaccine Debate**

"Thus, health communications have become "weaponized": public health issues, such as vaccination, are included in attempts to spread misinformation and disinformation by foreign powers. In addition, Twitter bots distributing malware and commercial content (i.e., spam) masquerade as human users to distribute antivaccine messages. A full 93% of tweets about vaccines are generated by accounts whose provenance can be verified as neither bots nor human users yet who exhibit malicious behaviors."

<https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2018.304567>

## **Healthcare Finances:**

### **Monopolized Healthcare Reduces Quality and Increases Cost**

Modern Healthcare: "As providers increasingly look to consolidate in order to lower operating costs and create economies of scale, the Center for Health Policy at the Brookings Institution and Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College on Thursday said the trend has led to a dearth of competition. That's why the healthcare industry sees rising prices, price variation and uneven quality of care, according to the groups' white paper."

"Medicare beneficiaries who experienced a heart attack had a 1.46 percentage point higher chance of dying within one year of treatment if they were treated by a hospital that faced few potential competitors, research shows. "

Two of Health Watch USA initiatives are addressed:

1. Making provider payments site neutral.
2. Eliminating the Certificate-of-Need.

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20170413/NEWS/170419935>

### **Health systems driving prices higher with physician group purchases**

Modern Healthcare: "Researchers estimated that the (increase in hospital employed physicians from 20% to 40% resulted in) a 12% increase in Affordable Care Act premiums, a 9% hike in specialist prices and 5% boost in primary care prices from 2013 to 2016."

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20180904/NEWS/180909986/health-systems-driving-prices-higher-with-physician-group-purchases>

### **Income surges for publicly traded health systems including HCA, Universal Health Services**

FierceHealthcare: "Nashville-based HCA Holdings had the most profitable second quarter among publicly traded health systems with income of \$820 million on \$11.53 billion in revenue—a 25% increase compared to the second quarter of 2017."

<https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals-health-systems/here-s-how-well-second-quarter-went-for-publicly-traded-hospital-companies>

### **How Much Are Healthcare CEO's Paid??**

<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/rankings-and-ratings/18-of-the-highest-paid-ceos-in-healthcare.html>

## **Healthcare Associated Infections**

### **CDC Releases 2016 Hospital Acquired Infection Data**

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/surveillance/data-reports/data-summary-assessing-progress.html>

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## **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:

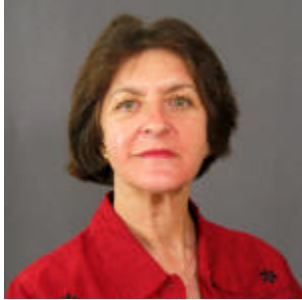
[www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org)



## 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>



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