



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Jan. 15, 2019

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



CDC Drafts New Guidelines for Occupational Health: Conduct assessments of infectious risks to Healthcare Workers.

Hospital Employee Health, Evans G: "One challenge in creating the guidelines has been to address the multiple infectious threats workers face, avoiding overkill without sacrificing the necessary protections for a broad range of pathogens, Kuhar says. There are likely to be continuing points of contention and clarification on achieving this balance. For example, a comment on the CDC draft guidelines submitted to the docket by Kevin T. Kavanagh,

MD, MS, of Health Watch USA, said the document does not sufficiently address the risk of healthcare workers becoming carriers of MRSA and other drug-resistant pathogens. "Some of the resistant organisms such as MRSA have become endemic, and different methodologies for prevention of spread need to be instituted, such as routine periodic screening for carriers," Kavanagh noted in the comments. To clarify, the CDC has not yet published the guideline section on specific pathogens with important implications for occupational health. That portion was expected to follow the recently published infrastructure section, and a draft likely will be issued later this year." <https://www.reliasmedia.com/articles/143702-cdc-drafts-new-guidelines-for-occupational-health>



Arguments for medical review panels unjustified

Lexington Herald Leader: "We the people — we the patients — deserve health policy shaped by facts, not rhetoric reflecting fears and fantasies. Let's work together to solve real problems within health care in Kentucky." Melissa Clarkson is a member of Health Watch USA and an assistant professor of biomedical informatics at the University of Kentucky.

<https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article223950295.html>

Health Watch USA Submits Comments on PACCARB Goals of Combating Antibiotic Resistant Organisms.

"The committee should expand its focus on prevention to include patients and healthcare workers to undergo routine active surveillance for carriage of endemic MDROs. A reporting system of healthcare workers carriage and infections along with an economic safety net for those affected also needs to be implemented." **View Full**

Comment : <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Initiatives/PDF-Downloads/20190102-SubmissionReceipt-Comment1&2.pdf>

Hospitals now list prices online

"...Jan. 1 deadline set by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to post their prices for every procedure, known as the "charge master price," online. That's a significant breakthrough, particularly for people without medical insurance, who can now comparison shop to find the best rate, said Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, executive director of Healthwatch USA, a patient advocacy group based in Kentucky. "If you don't have insurance, what you pay is based on the charge master price," Kavanagh said. "They will give you a ... discount off that price. ... Obviously the lower the price you have, the more the discount." "

<https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/news/nepa-hospitals-now-list-prices-online-1.2431212>

CMS Clarifies Healthcare Price Transparency Rules for Hospitals

New FAQs address which hospitals must comply with healthcare price transparency rules in 2019, as well as impacted services and the machine-readable definition.

<https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/cms-clarifies-healthcare-price-transparency-rules-for-hospitals>

When Evidence Says No, but Doctors Say Yes

"But consider the \$6.3 billion 21st Century Cures Act, which recently passed Congress to widespread acclaim. Who can argue with a law created in part to bolster cancer research? Among others, the heads of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Public Health Association. They argue against the new law because it will take \$3.5 billion away from public-health efforts in order to fund research on new medical technology and drugs, including former Vice President Joe Biden's "cancer moonshot.""

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2017/02/when-evidence-says-no-but-doctors-say-yes/517368/>

Prominent Doctors Aren't Disclosing Their Industry Ties in Medical Journal Studies. And Journals Are Doing Little to Enforce Their Rules

ProPublica, Ornstein, C & Thomas K. "The dean of Yale's medical school, the incoming president of a prominent cancer group and the head of a Texas cancer center are among leading medical figures who have not accurately disclosed their relationships with drug companies." "In addition to the widespread lapses by doctors, the review by ProPublica and The Times found that journals themselves often gave confusing advice and did not routinely vet disclosures by researchers, although many relationships could have been easily detected on a federal database."

<https://www.propublica.org/article/prominent-doctors-industry-ties-disclosures-medical-journal-studies>

Conflicts of Interests, Authors, and Journals. New Challenges for a Persistent Problem

JAMA: "While authors must be forthcoming about reporting their potential COIs, journal editors also have an

important responsibility in ensuring that all articles, including research reports, reviews, and opinion pieces, accurately reflect scientific evidence, regardless of the COI disclosures of authors. For example, editors must review invited opinion manuscripts linked to specific research articles (eg, Editorials and Commentaries) and ensure that the authors adequately assess the accompanying research report, provide a balanced discussion of the key issues, do not misinterpret the data, do not exaggerate the findings, or introduce new data that has not been previously published."

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2712191>

Institutional Conflicts of Interest and Public Trust

JAMA: " Journals and institutions need to establish accountability measures for failure to disclose conflicts of interest within their respective policies and instructions to authors. There should be meaningful sanctions for violating the public's trust and the integrity of research. Best practices involving the management of individual and institutional conflicts of interest should be shared publicly."

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2715796>

Health Watch USA 2018 Fall Conference

12th Annual Patient Safety Conference was held on Oct. 4th in Lexington, KY.

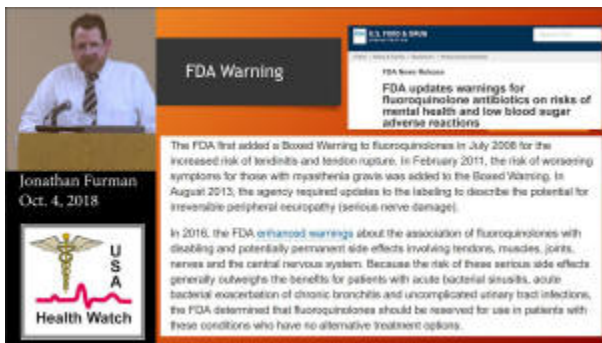


A screenshot of a presentation slide. On the left, there is a small video frame showing a woman speaking at a podium. Below it is a logo for 'Health Watch USA' with the date 'Oct. 4, 2018'. The main title of the slide is 'My family's experience'. Below the title, the year '2012' is listed, followed by a bulleted list of events: 'My father was badly burned in Kansas', 'Local hospital delayed transfer to burn center', and 'He died 11 days later'. To the right of the text is a portrait of an older man with glasses.

The Importance of Transparency and Full Disclosure of Adverse Events

Melissa Clarkson, PhD, discusses her family's experiences with the healthcare legal system and gag clauses, along with the importance of full disclosure of adverse events and support of the injured patient and family. Health Watch USA Conference Oct. 4, 2018.

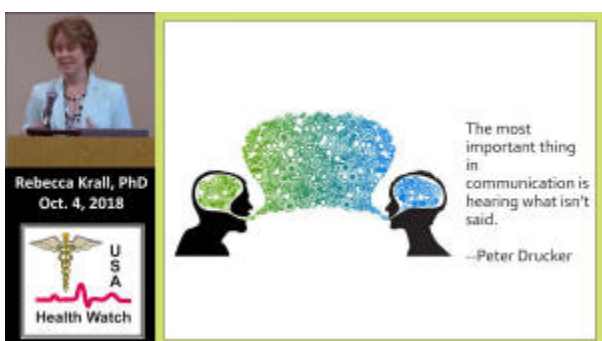
YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/LZxDsOp3rao>



The Dangers of Fluoroquinolone Antibiotics

Jonathan Furman presents on the adverse effects of fluoroquinolones and the shortcomings of FDA oversight. Adverse events include, tendon rupture and psychological dysfunction. The frequency of these events has caused the FDA to issue black box warnings and recommend restricting fluoroquinolones usage -- Health Watch USA Conference, Oct. 4, 2018.

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/gcID4WjBMRo>



The Importance of Communication To Avoid Adverse Events

Rebecca Krall, PhD. Discusses what happens when an asplenic patient is bitten by a dog: A caregivers's perspective on healthcare communication issues. Health Watch USA Conference, Oct. 4, 2018.

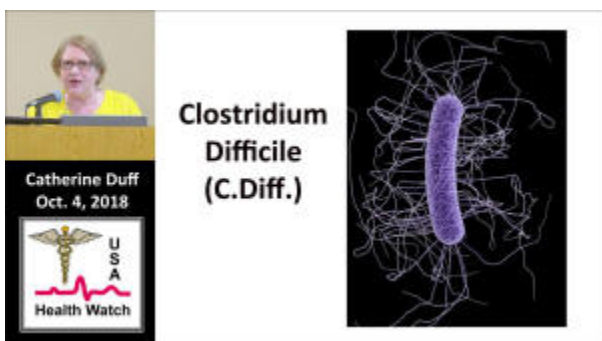
YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/hlNGum9y2bc>



The Importance of Nursing To Assure Patient Safety

Christine Pontus, MS, RN, reviews the literature and discusses the importance of nursing to assure patient safety. The negative impact of inadequate RN staffing on several key patient outcomes has been documented in the peer reviewed literature. Nationally, unions and associations representing RNs have been advocating for safe staffing legislation at state and federal levels.

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/nkDEe2L-8h4>



Fecal Transplantation - Current Status, FDA Policy & A Patient Advocate's Story

Catherine Duff, President and Founder of The Fecal Transplant Foundation, tells a harrowing story of how a family administered fecal transplant saved her life and started her down the road of fecal transplant advocacy and FDA policy advisor. -- Health Watch USA Conference, Oct. 4, 2018.

The Fecal Transplant Foundation: <http://thefecaltransplantfoundation.org>

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/u1c5T3j4OOE>

=====

**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>

