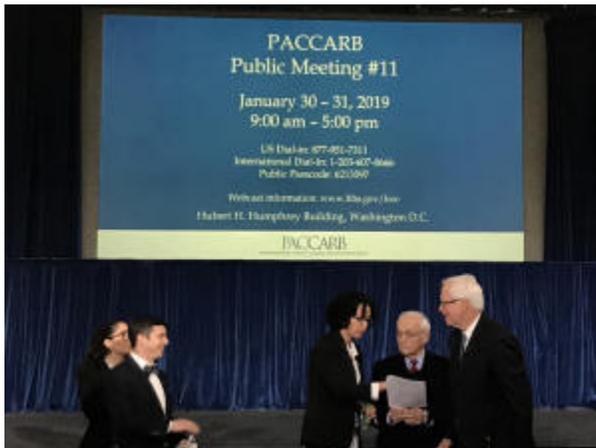




Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Feb. 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



Public Comment Before the Presidential Advisory Council for Combating Antibiotic Resistance.

PACCARB Public Comment - Health Watch USA Jan. 30, 2019

Health Watch USA comments on the epidemic of drug resistant bacteria and the need for more resources and commitments to stop spread and to safeguard healthcare workers. The need for increased surveillance of carriers and for healthcare worker safety. In addition, there should be a surveillance system for MDRO acquisitions in healthcare workers and an economic safety net. Presidential Advisory

Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. Jan. 30, 2019. YouTube

Video: <https://youtu.be/vcFwjD7uLtk> Download Text of

Comment: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Community/PDF-Downloads/20190130-Comment-Oral-NewGoals.pdf>

Health Watch USA on the importance of the microbiome to overall patient health and the prevention of infectious disease. Until we have the capability of monitoring a patient's microbiome we should at least be screening for dangerous pathogens. Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. Jan. 31, 2019. YouTube Video:

<https://youtu.be/cLjN6MTkuPc> Download Text of

Comment: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Community/PDF-Downloads/20190131-Comment-Microbiome.pdf>



Opioid Crisis in Big Pharma Marketing, Project Tango

The Dangers of Opioid Use -- Not indicated for chronic pain

The dangers of opioid addiction. New research showing opioids are no more effective than non-steroidal pain medications in the relief of chronic pain. In addition, the alleged perverse marketing practices by the pharmaceutical industry is discussed. Jack Pattie Radio Show. WVLK-AM 590 News Radio. <https://youtu.be/4lv214b75TU>

Important References

-- Commentary on a Meta Analysis of Opioid Research Studies. Conclusion: No better than anti-inflammatory drugs but a lot more risks.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2718775>

-- Big Pharma Money To Doctors Correlates with Rate of Opioid Deaths in U.S.

Counties. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2720914>

-- Massachusetts Attorney General Files Lawsuit Against Purdue Pharma. Project Tango, and Marketing Practices are Reminiscent of Big Tobacco. <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/02/01/690556552/lawsuit-details-how-the-sackler-family-allegedly-built-an-oxycontin-fortune> [Download Portion of Lawsuit](#)

Below is a portion of the allegations in the Mass. Attorney General's lawsuit which has been filed involving Purdue Pharma. -- Page 154:

Kathe and the staff concluded that millions of people who became addicted to opioids were the Sacklers' next business opportunity. Staff wrote: "It is an attractive market. Large unmet need for vulnerable, underserved and stigmatized patient population suffering from substance abuse, dependence and addiction." The team identified eight ways that Purdue's experience getting patients on opioids could now be used to sell treatment for opioid addiction.⁵³⁶

448. Kathe Sackler instructed staff that Project Tango required their "immediate attention." She pressed staff to look into reports of children requiring hospitalization after swallowing buprenorphine — the active ingredient in both Purdue's Butrans opioid and the opioid addiction treatment that the Sacklers wanted to sell, through Project Tango, in a film that melts in your mouth.⁵³⁷ Staff assured Kathe that children were overdosing on pills, not films, "which is a positive for Tango."⁵³⁸

449. In February 2015, staff presented Kathe Sackler's work on Project Tango to the Board. The plan was for a Joint Venture controlled by the Sacklers to sell the addiction medication suboxone.⁵³⁹

Big Pharma Funding of Medical Education

Below is a new article on the ties of Harvard and Tufts with the Sackler Family (of Purdue Pharma) and that they are considering severing ties after the Mass AG Lawsuit was filled.

"Court filing's allegations prompt an evaluation at Tufts as calls mount for prestigious universities, including Harvard, to reconsider bearing the name of the Sackler family. The filing alleges that Purdue funded "an entire degree program at Tufts University to influence Massachusetts doctors to use its drugs." Purdue sponsored an annual "Sackler Lecture" at Tufts on pain medicine, and Richard Sackler for many years held a seat on the school of medicine's board, it alleges. (Purdue Pharma is unrelated to the university in Indiana.)" <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2019/01/21/tufts-re-evaluating-connections-oxycontin-maker>

Health Watch USAsm Comment Regarding Conflicts of Interest Between Hospitals and the Joint Commission

We thus recommend the following to eliminate conflicts of interest and accreditation bias:

- 1) The facility should not be allowed to select the accreditor. This should be done by CMS on the basis of accreditor quality. Facilities should pay fees into a pool for CMS to randomly select Accrediting Organizations. The number of facilities surveyed by an Accrediting Organization should be based upon the accuracy of the Accrediting Organization's surveys. Thus, the lower an Accrediting Organization's disparity rate with follow-up state surveys, the more contracts for surveys it would receive.
- 2) Accrediting organizations should not be permitted to offer consulting services to the same facilities that they survey. If a facility is accredited by another Accrediting Organization, then such services should be permissible. [View Comment](#)

Dated information on a CRE Outbreak in Austin Texas, But Timely Reporting For Mexico.

Drug-resistant superbug in Travis County emerges as local public health threat. However, this data appears to be old from 2017!! <http://www.austintexas.gov/news/drug%E2%80%93resistant-superbug-travis-county-emerges-local-public-health-threat> PDF

Compare to the CDC's alert regarding a hospital in Mexico. it contains a warning on a dangerous outbreak which occurred within a few days of the warning. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/drug-resistant-infections-mexico> PDF

We need this type of reporting for the United States!

AHRQ has posted State Report on Hospital Acquired Conditions

Analysis Finds Hospital-Acquired Conditions Declined By Nearly 1 Million from 2014-2017
<https://www.ahrq.gov/news/newsroom/press-releases/hac-rates-declined.html>

Caps on Malpractice Payments

FierceHealthcare: David Mayer (MedStar Health Vice President for Quality and Safety): "I've had some CEOs of hospitals tell me, especially in states where there is sort of a cap on medical malpractice, "We have 60 horrific events every year, it costs us \$250,000 per medical malpractice claim to pay it off, so that's \$15 million. We just build it into the cost of doing business and we focus in on generating more revenue." It makes no sense to me." <https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals-health-systems/new-medstar-exec-name-ceo-patient-safety-movement-foundation>

Kentucky Representative Tom Burch files Bill For Patient Notification if a Healthcare Provider is Sanctioned by Their Board for Sexual Misconduct

[-- Read Bill --](#)

=====

**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>

