



Health Watch USAsm

Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Aug. 1, 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



HW USA Meeting YouTube

Video: <https://youtu.be/hTjaG0pi1XM>

The Perfect Predator -- Bacterial Phages and The Story of a Medical Miracle

Dr. Stephanie Strathdee and Dr. Thomas Patterson present their real life struggle of Dr. Strathdee to save her husband, Dr. Patterson's life from a totally antibiotic resistant bacteria, acinetobacter baumannii. Her search discovered a 100 year old therapy, bacterial viruses or phages. With the help of the Naval Research Department, Texas A & M, University of California at San Diego the treatment was given to her husband who was on the brink of death. And it worked, placing bacterial phages at the forefront of medical research to stop the epidemic of drug resistant bacteria. Now a best selling book "The Perfect Predator"

Jack MotherJones:

<https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/05/the-best-viral-news-youll-ever-read-antibiotic-resistance-phage-therapy-bacteriophage-virus/>



Pattie Show Aug. 9, 2019. Video URL:

<https://youtu.be/CRHiYDkKFcQ>

CDC Releases Report on Antibiotic Usage in the United States

At least 30% of antibiotic prescriptions are unnecessary.

<https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/stewardship-report/pdf/stewardship-report-2018-508.pdf>

Why Are These Medical Instruments So Tough to Sterilize?

NYT: "Duodenoscopes have sickened hundreds of patients in hospital outbreaks. Now some experts are demanding the devices be redesigned or taken off the market."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/06/health/duodenoscopes-infections-hospitals-antibiotics.html>

Resistant Klebsiella and E. coli widespread across Southeast Asia; Global measles cases have tripled since last year; Antibiotic use increases odds of rheumatoid arthritis.

CDDEP: <https://cddep.org/blog/posts/weekly-digest-august-19-2019/>

The Fundamental Link Between Body Weight and the Immune System

The Atlantic: "The relationship between microbes and weight gain has long been overlooked in humans, but people have known about similar effects in animals for decades. After World War II, antibiotics became affordable and abundant for the first time. Farmers began giving the drugs to their livestock—for example, to treat a milk cow's infected udder—and noticed that animals who got antibiotics grew larger and more quickly."

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2019/08/inflammations-immune-system-obesity-microbiome/595384/>

Healthcare Finances

Soaring cost of insulin 'nothing short of premeditated murder'

Kentucky Today: "Despite having insurance through her employer, "The cost of my insulin went from \$35 a month to over \$400 a month," she told the panel. "I could have a roof over my head, or I could pay for insulin. I could keep my lights on, or I could pay for my insulin. The stigma that goes along with being a Type 2 diabetic makes even talking about it difficult."

http://kentuckytoday.com/stories/soaring-cost-of-insulin-in-kentucky-topic-of-concern,21152#.XV_WU7FApCo.email

A Mexican Hospital, an American Surgeon, and a \$5,000 Check (Yes, a Check)

NYT: "A novel twist on medical tourism to avoid the high cost of U.S. health care saves an employer money and even earns the patient a bonus.... The hospital costs of the American medical system are so high that it made financial sense for both a highly trained orthopedist from Milwaukee and a patient from Mississippi to leave the country and meet at an upscale private Mexican hospital for the surgery." https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/09/business/medical-tourism-mexico.html?utm_source=pocket-newtab

Assessment of Out-of-Network Billing for Privately Insured Patients Receiving Care in In-Network Hospitals

JAMA: "In this analysis of 5 457 981 inpatient admissions and 13 579 006 emergency department admissions between 2010 and 2016 in a large national sample of privately insured patients, the incidence of out-of-network billing increased from 32.3% to 42.8% of emergency department visits, and the mean potential liability to patients increased from \$220 to \$628. For inpatient admissions, the incidence of out-of-network billing increased from 26.3% to 42.0%, and the mean potential liability to patients increased from \$804 to \$2040.0."

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/2740802>

Surprise bills surge in ER, inpatient settings, JAMA finds --- Healthcare Dive: "The percentage of emergency department visits resulting in a surprise bill jumped from 32.3% in 2010 to 42.8% in 2016 while the increase for inpatient admissions went from 26.3% to 42%. The cost of the bill in both categories nearly doubled in that time period, with the top 10% of ED visits resulting in a bill of more than \$1,000, and the top 10% of inpatient visits costing more than \$3,000."

<https://www.healthcarediver.com/news/surprise-bills-surge-in-er-inpatient-settings-jama-finds/560650/>

Healthcare Quality

Johnson & Johnson is responsible for fueling Oklahoma’s opioid crisis, judge rules in landmark case

WP: "NORMAN, Okla.— A judge Monday found Johnson & Johnson responsible for fueling Oklahoma’s opioid crisis, ordering the health care company to pay \$572 million to remedy the devastation wrought by the epidemic on the state and its residents. Cleveland County District Judge Thad Balkman’s landmark decision is the first to hold a drugmaker culpable for the fallout of years of liberal opioid dispensing that began in the late 1990s, sparking a nationwide epidemic of overdose deaths and addiction. More than 400,000 people have died of overdoses from painkillers, heroin and illegal fentanyl since 1999." https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/johnson-and-johnson-is-responsible-for-fueling-oklahomas-opioid-crisis-judge-rules-in-landmark-case/2019/08/26/ed7bc6dc-c7fe-11e9-a4f3-c081a126de70_story.html

Federal scientists warned of coming opioid crisis in 2006

<https://www.politico.com/story/2019/08/21/federal-scientists-opioid-crisis-1673694>

The Patient Record Scorecard = How easy is it for patients to obtain their medical records? A deep analysis showing how medical record providers comply with the HIPAA Right of Access based on patient requests.

<https://www.citizen.com/scorecards/>

Patients Still Battling Providers for Medical Records

MedPageToday: "Nearly three-fourths of requests required nudging or escalation to be HIPAA compliant."

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/hospitalbasedmedicine/generalhospitalpractice/81668>

Health Watch USA Oct. 17, 2019 Conference



Public Health in Crisis
MDRO Epidemics & FDA Oversight
Health Watch USASM Patient Safety
Conference
Oct 17, 2019 in Lexington Kentucky

Speakers include: <http://www.healthconference.org>



- 1) Author & Epidemiologists: Dr.P.H.Ralph R. Frerichs Truth, Lies and the Greater Good — Cholera's Unexpected Arrival in Haiti;
- 2) Past Surgeon General, Dr. Joycelyn Elders; Importance of School Health and Vaccinations;
- 3) USA Today Reporter, Jayne O'Donnell & Kaiser Healthcare News Reporter, Laura Ungar: The Patient Safety Story: Lessons from Two Reporters in the Trenches;
- 4) Lindsay Calderon MD, PhD: Bias in the MAUDE Database. Who is making the reports;
- 5) FACT Food Safety Director and Senior Analyst for Keep Antibiotics Working, Steve Roach.

Registration is now open for the 2019 HW USA Patient Safety Conference: <http://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-files/payment.htm>

Download Brochure: http://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-files/2019Conference_downloads/Brochure.pdf

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