



Health Watch USAsm

Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Nov. 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

High Cost of Diabetes Care

What are the Known Financial Barriers?

- Insulin
- Test strips
- Blood glucose meters
- Lancets
- Alcohol swabs
- Syringes
- Glucagon (Baqsimt®)
- Insulin Pump
 - Pump Supplies (sites and cartridges)
- Continuous glucose monitor
- Doctors visits
 - Every 3 months to Pediatric Endocrinology, ASC, reading of CGM data, blood work, time off from school & work to attend

Cost of Insulin Pens:

• Norway: \$5
• Scotland: \$6
• Thailand: \$5
• Australia: \$20
• Mexico: \$25
• Taiwan: \$40
• Brazil: \$51
• Italy: \$61
• Canada: \$70
• Germany: \$73
• United States: \$780

Lisa Middleton, PhD
Health Watch USASM

The High Cost and Impact of Type I Diabetes

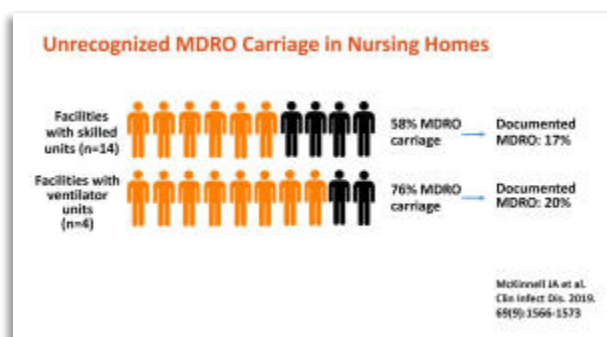
Lisa Middleton, PhD, discusses the impact that the high cost of treating Type I diabetes has had on her family. She presents an online patient survey along with strategies to help mitigate the impact on a family's financial security. Health Watch USA Conference Presentation -- Oct. 17, 2019 View Video: <https://youtu.be/HnhodaAdHdE>

View Presentation Slides:

http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2019/slides/Middleton_HealthWatch-2.pdf

HW USA Conference YouTube Video:

<https://youtu.be/HnhodaAdHdE>

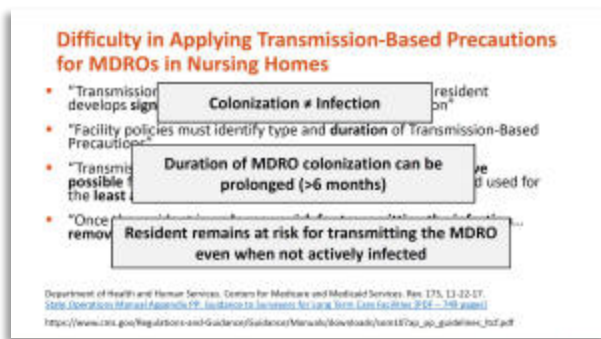


Multidrug-resistant Organism Prevalence in 21 Nursing Homes and Long-term Acute Care Facilities in Southern California

Clinical Infectious Disease. McKinnell, et al. Nov. 1, 2019: Prevalence of drug resistant bacteria was found to be 65% in nursing homes and 80% in long-term acute care facilities. The most common drug resistant bacteria in nursing homes were MRSA (42%) and extended-spectrum β -

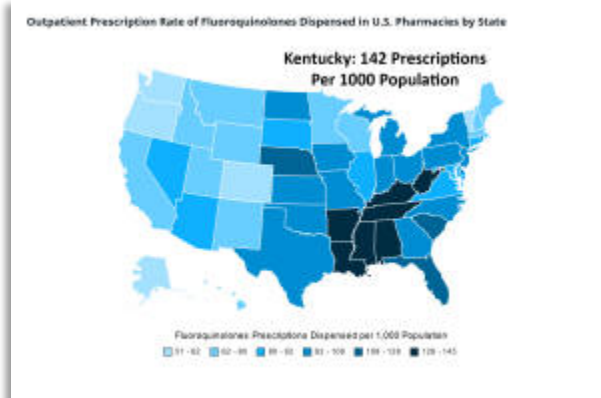
lactamase-producing organisms (34%); in long-term acute care facilities they were vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus spp (55%) and extended-spectrum β -lactamase-producing organisms (38%).

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30753383>



Colonized Residents in Nursing Homes May Carry the Organisms for Months. -- Preventing the Spread of Novel or Targeted Multidrug resistant Organisms (MDROs) in Nursing Homes through Enhanced Barrier Precautions Clinician, CDC. Oct. 24, 2019.

[Click on Pictures to Enlarge](#)



Kentucky has the second highest rate of Fluoroquinolone (ie: Cipro, Floxin) usage in the United States.

CDC: "Fluoroquinolones are an important class of antibiotics that can be used to treat serious bacterial infections, such as pneumonia and kidney infections. They are also used to help treat infections caused by bacteria that are resistant to other antibiotics. However, fluoroquinolones can put patients at risk for C. difficile infections. Fluoroquinolones also have a high risk for other serious side effects. The U.S. Food and

Drug Administration (FDA) has issued multiple warnings, including a boxed warning about fluoroquinolones, highlighting side effects including damage to the tendons, muscles, joints, nerves and the central nervous system, and risk of aortic aneurysm and dissection. The warnings state that healthcare providers should not prescribe fluoroquinolones when other effective treatment options are available (FDA Drug Safety Communication)." <https://arpsp.cdc.gov/story/story2>

Judge denies CMS bid to preserve site-neutral payment cuts while awaiting appeal

This may result in a return of surprise billing where a patient goes to their doctor and receives a bill which is twice as large that contains a facility fee.

<https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals-health-systems/judge-denies-cms-bid-to-preserve-site-neutral-payment-cuts-while-awaiting>

Physician groups call court ruling on site-neutral payments 'bad news'

<https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/hospitals-health-systems/physician-groups-call-court-ruling-site-neutral-payments-bad-news>

Hospitals across Ventura County face penalties for readmission of Medicare patients

VC Star: "The revolving door of readmissions is a huge issue and can mean patients aren't getting what they need, said Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, board chairman of the Health Watch USA patient advocacy program. Kavanagh voiced support for the penalties, contending they help explain why readmission rates have dropped nationwide. He said hospitals that struggle with readmission every year need to figure out how to get

themselves out of a rut.

Some facilities are strapped for the resources needed to improve care. But Kavanagh also cited reports and studies about the rising compensation nationwide of chief executives at nonprofit hospitals. "All of these penalties are occurring when nonprofit CEO salaries are coming under more scrutiny," he said. "I do think more resources need to be devoted to the patients." "

<https://www.vcstar.com/story/news/local/2019/10/14/ventura-county-hospitals-face-medicare-readmission-penalties/3870392002/>

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

Conference Website is now online with presentation

slides: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2019/>



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