



# Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> Newsletter

[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Oct. 1, 2014

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

## Jeanine R Thomas Presenting on MRSA at Health Watch USA

Jeanine R. Thomas, Founder of the MRSA Survivors Network gave a presentation on MRSA Surveillance which HW USA consulted on and which she gave to the Sept. 5th, 2014 FDA Staph Workshop. View YouTube Video of Presentation: <http://youtu.be/0gC9fHbGGgk>



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## Infections

### American Society for Microbiology's Ebola Resources:

<http://www.asm.org/index.php/news-room/asm-press-releases/89-news-room/media-info/93111-asm-ebola-resources>

### Nurses Concerned Hospitals are Not Ready for Ebola

<http://mashable.com/2014/09/24/nurses-vegas-ebola-protest/>

### American Antimicrobial Association Statement on Surveillance

"The emphasis on tracking resistance in humans, animals and food and promoting antibiotic stewardship across the food chain is vitally important, as well as minimizing antibiotic use for non-health purposes." [Read Full Statement](#)

### Reduced Rates of Antibiotic Usage Decreased Readmissions Due to Infections

The researches found a 27% reduction in antibiotic utilization and a 27% reduction in infections.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/831772>

<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/story/antibiotic-stewardship-could-cut-readmissions-infection/2014-09-17>

### Surgical Site Infection Prevention Utilizing Patient Screening and Decolonization: The PA-HEN SSI Prevention Collaboration

Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory: "This work adds to the body of knowledge related to successful reduction of SSI through screening and decolonization and also adds important information about the

impact of empowering patients and institutional partners to augment prevention protocols with evidence-based modifications that fit institutional culture and the needs of the patient."

<http://patientsafetyauthority.org/ADVISORIES/AdvisoryLibrary/2014/Sep;11%283%29/Pages/131.aspx>

### **Artificial Sweeteners May Lead to Diabetes and Change the Gut's Microbiota.**

"In trying to understand why certain diseases like food allergies and diabetes have been increasing, Nagler said she looks to things that change gut microbes, such as the introduction of antibiotics, changes in diet, Cesarean-section births, the introduction of formula and the elimination of infectious diseases."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/09/17/artificial-sweetener-diabetes/15777225/>

### **Childhood Obesity is Linked to Antibiotic Usage**

"Repeated exposure to broad-spectrum antibiotics at ages 0 to 23 months is associated with early childhood obesity. Because common childhood infections were the most frequent diagnoses co-occurring with broad-spectrum antibiotic prescription, narrowing antibiotic selection is potentially a modifiable risk factor for childhood obesity."

JAMA Pediatrics: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25265089>

## **Patient Safety**

### **New Study Shows No Benefit of New Hip Implants Over Old Ones**

Medpage Today: <http://www.medpagetoday.com/Orthopedics/Orthopedics/47574>

### **NYT: Doctors' Magical Thinking About Conflicts of Interest**

13% of FDA Doctors on Advisory Committees have been reported to have a conflict of interest.

Milbank Memorial Fund: "There appears to be a pro-sponsor voting bias among advisory committee members who have exclusive financial relationships with the sponsoring firm but not among members who have nonexclusive financial relationships (ie, those with ties to both the sponsor and its competitors)"

<http://www.milbank.org/publications/the-milbank-quarterly/current-issue/article/3986/revisiting-financial-conflicts-of-interest-in-fda-advisory-committees>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/09/upshot/doctors-magical-thinking-about-conflicts-of-interest.html>

## **Medical Overuse**

### **Was an Unnecessary Antibiotic Given to the Ebola Patient ?**

The Texas Ebola patient was seen in the ER two days prior to diagnosis, given antibiotics and sent home.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/CriticalCare/InfectionControl/47890>

### **American Neurological Association Warns Against Opioid Use in Non-Cancer Pain**

"The evidence of harm is high, and the effectiveness is low"

Medpage Today: <http://www.medpagetoday.com/PainManagement/PainManagement/47871>

# Healthcare Reform

## Hospitals Save 5.7 Billion in Uncompensated Care

However, only in states that have expanded Medicaid. New Dept of HHS Report [http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2014/UncompensatedCare/ib\\_UncompensatedCare.pdf](http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2014/UncompensatedCare/ib_UncompensatedCare.pdf)

## CMS Posts Physician Sunshine Payment Data

"Sometimes, doctors and hospitals have financial relationships with health care manufacturing companies. These relationships can include money for research activities, gifts, speaking fees, meals, or travel. The Social Security Act requires CMS to collect information from applicable manufacturers and group purchasing organizations (GPOs) in order to report information about their financial relationships with physicians and hospitals. Open Payments is the federally run program that collects the information about these financial relationships and makes it available to you." <http://www.cms.gov/OpenPayments/index.html>

"(Reuters) - U.S. doctors and teaching hospitals received \$3.5 billion from pharmaceutical companies and medical device makers in the last five months of 2013, according to the most extensive data trove on such payments ever made public." <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/30/usa-healthcare-doctors-idUSL2N0RV0QN20140930>

## Consumer Anger to High Healthcare Costs

"The average employer family health plan that cost companies \$6,438 per staffer in 2000 shot up to \$16,351 by 2013. That's money that could have gone into your paycheck but didn't because your employer had to spend it on your health insurance instead." "Twelve percent said they had spent more than \$5,000 of their own money on medical bills (not counting prescriptions or insurance premiums) in the previous year, and 11 percent said they had medical bills they had trouble paying." <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine/2014/11/it-is-time-to-get-mad-about-the-outrageous-cost-of-health-care/index.htm>

## Drug Firms Starting to Detail The Hospital's C-Suite and Not Doctors

Wall Street Journal: "the pharmaceutical industry is shifting its sales efforts from doctors to the institutions they work for." <http://online.wsj.com/articles/as-doctors-lose-clout-drug-firms-redirect-the-sales-call-1411612207>

## The Obama Administration On Track To End ACA Coverage for Hundreds of Thousands

Because of questions of citizenship and/or income verification almost 500 thousand individuals may have their coverage revoked. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/16/us/us-to-end-coverage-under-health-care-law-for-tens-of-thousands.html? r=0>

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## Upcoming Events:

# HW USA Annual Patient Safety Conference



**Nov. 7, 2014:** Health Watch USA's Annual Health Policy Conference, Lexington, KY.

Continuing Education Credits for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, occupational therapists and physical therapists will be offered.

This year's conference will focus on patient safety, advocacy, healthcare associated infections and multi-resistant drug organisms. (A working agenda can be viewed at <http://www.healthconference.org/agenda.htm> )

In the Conference's Patient Advocacy Section, we have a number of nationally renowned speakers, including Past Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, MD, Kathy Day, RN, and Karen Meyers, JD. In addition, the following presentations will deal with full disclosure.

- Patient Advocate David Anton will present on how a lack of transparency can inhibit the correction of medical errors that are found on CMS Surveys. (David Anton is the patient advocate who was involved in the CMS, Cleveland Clinic, VA Secretary Appointment Issue.) <http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20140607/MAGAZINE/306079939/-cleveland-clinic-cases-highlight-flaws-in-safety-oversight>
- Dr. Steve Kraman, will give an update on the full disclosure initiative. Dr. Kraman was one of the first to start the full disclosure initiative back in the late 1990's. It has since been adopted by Stanford University and the University of Michigan and found to lower malpractice costs.
- James Anderson, will give the morning keynote address on disclosure of adverse events. Mr. Anderson is on the Board of Directors for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) & Former President and Chief Executive Officer, Cincinnati Children's Hospital. [About the James M. Anderson Center for Health Systems Excellence.](#)

In the Conference's Adverse Events and Healthcare Associated Infections Section, Dr. Richard Wild, Chief Medical Officer CMS Atlanta Region will present on the CMS initiative on decreasing Hospital

Acquired Conditions (HACs). Representative Tom Burch, Kentucky House Health and Welfare Committee Chairman and Dr. Kraig Humbaugh, Director of the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) Division of Epidemiology Planning will present on the revised Kentucky regulation for reportable diseases, including CRE. Dr. Kevin Kavanagh will present on the prevention of surgical site infections, and Dr. Raul Nakamatsu will present the Louisville, VA experience of universal surveillance to control MRSA.

Conference registration is \$50. To register go to: <http://www.healthconference.org/payment-fax-check.htm>

Full conference agenda can be viewed at: <http://www.healthconference.org/agenda.htm>

For more information go to: [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org) Registration is now open

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