



# Health Watch USA Newsletter

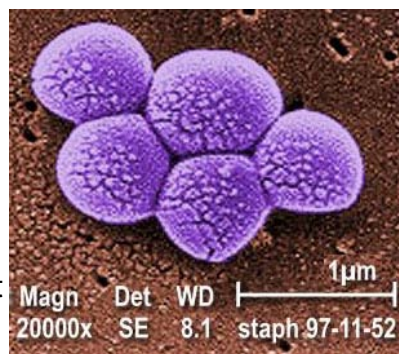
[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) Aug 8, 2012

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

## A Perspective on the Evidence Regarding Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus Surveillance.

This article by HW USA tells part of the story behind the USA not setting standards for MRSA Surveillance.

"The publication in prominent journals of 2 studies, the STAR\*ICU Study and the MRSA-Swiss Study, seems to have had a disproportionate impact on health-care policy, which has stymied the widespread adoption of MRSA active surveillance testing in hospitals." -- Journal of Patient Safety, Aug. 2012.



[http://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Abstract/publishahead/A\\_Perspective\\_on\\_the\\_Evidence\\_Regarding.99853.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Abstract/publishahead/A_Perspective_on_the_Evidence_Regarding.99853.aspx)

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## The Rate of MRSA Infections has Doubled in Five Years

- MRSA is becoming more resistant to other antibiotics.
- One in 20 inpatients either have or carry the bacteria, and the true incidence may be higher.
- The incidence of MRSA Infections were found to have doubled between 2003 and 2008.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2012/07/mrsa-on-the-rise-infections-have-doubled-in-5-years/260495/>



David MZ, Medvedev S, Hohmann SF, et al. Increasing Burden of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Hospitalizations at US Academic Medical Centers, 2003-2008. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol. 2012 Aug;33(8):782-9. Epub 2012 Jun 11.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22759545>

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## **Nurse Burnout Linked to Increase in Healthcare Associated Infections.**

For each additional patient above 5.7 that a nurse was responsible for, there was an increase in the rate of Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) by one per every 1000 patients and Surgical Site Infections (SSI) by 5 per every 1000 patients.

"Researchers estimated that if nursing burnout rates were reduced to 10%, Pennsylvania hospitals could prevent an estimated 4,160 infections and save \$41 million annually."

Jeannie P. Cimiotti, RN, DNSc, Linda H. Aiken, PhD, Douglas M. Sloane, PhD, and Evan S. Wu, BS, appears in the August issue of the American Journal of Infection Control.

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory\\_127770.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_127770.html)

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22854376>

Dr. Ciminotti was a speaker at the 2010 HW USA Conference

<http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2010/cimiotti/cimiotti.htm>

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## **Since 2007 New York Hospitals have Confidentially Reported More than 40,000 Adverse Events.**

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/investigations/Hospital-Errors-Kept-Private-State-Health-Department-164792606.html>

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## **Implementation of CUSP cuts Colorectal Surgery Infections by 33%**

<http://www.journalacs.org/article/S1072-7515%2812%2900264-5/abstract>

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## **The Joint Commission Publishes Monograph on the Prevention of Central Line-Associated Infections**

[http://www.jointcommission.org/preventing\\_clabsi/](http://www.jointcommission.org/preventing_clabsi/)

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## **Hospitals Are Not Doing Enough to Avoid Readmissions from Heart Failure and Myocardial Infarction.**

On average, less than half of the avoidance practices were implemented by hospitals. Only 3% of hospitals implemented all of the practices.

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/In-the-Literature/2012/Jul/Contemporary-Evidence-About-Hospital-Strategies-for-Reducing-30-Day-Readmissions.aspx?omnicid=20>

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## **Experts Advise Surgeons to Abandon Gastric Banding Surgery and Start Doing Sleeve Gastrectomy or Bypass Procedures.**

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/767489?src=top10>

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## **USPSTF Recommends Against Cardiac Stress Testing of Low Risk Patients**

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390444226904577559450873572214.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_MIDDLE\\_Video\\_second](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390444226904577559450873572214.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLE_Video_second)

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## **The last Collaboration -- A Book Written by Martha Deed and Millie Niss**

The book is a collage of notes, poems, pictures, graphics and News articles telling the tragic death of Millie Niss and the failures in the interventions of the healthcare system.

[http://www.amazon.com/Last-Collaboration-Not-very-funny-completed-modernization/dp/061564595X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1343921656&sr=1-1&keywords=The+Last+Collaboration#reader\\_061564595X](http://www.amazon.com/Last-Collaboration-Not-very-funny-completed-modernization/dp/061564595X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1343921656&sr=1-1&keywords=The+Last+Collaboration#reader_061564595X)

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## **Massachusetts Legislature Passes a Provision Which Ties Growth in Health Care Spending To the State's Gross Domestic Product**

<http://blog.sfgate.com/nov05election/2012/08/02/what-massachusetts-health-care-cuts-mean-for-california/>

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## **Lawsuit Has Been Filed to Challenge Virginia's Certificate of Need Law**

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/jun/4/requiring-higher-health-care-costs/>

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## **2012 Health Watch USA Conference Registration is Now Open.**

This year's conference will center on Shared Decision Making and Value Purchasing -- Be sure you need the recommended healthcare and, if so, how to obtain low cost, high-quality healthcare.

Nov. 9th, 2012, Four Points Sheraton in Lexington, Kentucky.

See [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org) for more information.

Speakers Include:

- Howard Blackburn Jr. Chair Elect, Kentucky Society for Human Resource Managers on Value Purchasing.
- Rosemary Gibson. Author of the Treatment Trap on Medical Overutilization and Over Treatment.
- Patty Skolnik, Founder of Citizens for Patient Safety. Presenting on Shared Decision Making.
- Richard Wild, MD, Chief Medical Officer, CMS Atlanta Region on Hospital Safety and Value Purchasing.
- Leana W. Wen, MD. President of the American Academy of Emergency



Physicians/Residents and Students Association on How to Avoid Misdiagnosis and Unnecessary Tests.

- Karen Curtiss, Author of Safe and Sound in the Hospital.
- Tihisha Rawlins, Associate Director of Advocacy, Kentucky AARP on Tips for Getting Safer Healthcare.
- Chandra Venettozzi (Ky CHFS, Office of Health Policy).
- Past U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Joycelyn Elders, on the Importance of Speaking Up.

Download Brochure: [http://healthconference.org/2012conference\\_downloads/2012-Brochure.pdf](http://healthconference.org/2012conference_downloads/2012-Brochure.pdf)

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