



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

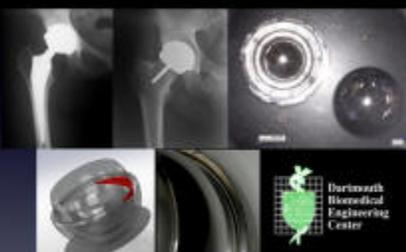
[www.healthwatchusa.org](http://www.healthwatchusa.org) July 10, 2015

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

## Medical Devices

**Metal-on-Metal wear (1,000,000)**

Systematic Literature Review of 2318 publications we found 25 cases of cobaltism from MoM wear



Periprosthetic Metallosis: Moderate  
Pseudotumors: Common but sometimes asymptomatic  
Hypercobaltemia: Moderate to Severe 16-398 ppb  
Cobaltism: Tinnitus, Disordered Mood and Sleep, Cognitive Dysfunction, Anorexia, Patchy Retinopathy, Cardiomyopathy

Durham-Durham Biomedical Engineering Center

### Are Some Types of Hip Implants Poisoning Patients?

Heavy metal poisoning "is an increasingly recognized complication of wear or corrosion of chrome-cobalt hip implants, may involve a large number of organ systems, and may occur with relatively low B[Co]. There is an urgent need to better define the overall scope of the problem and to develop screening and management strategies" [Click on Picture to Enlarge](#)

[Read More -- Open](#)

Access: [http://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Abstract/publishahead/A\\_Systematic\\_Review\\_of\\_Systemic\\_Cobaltism\\_After.99652.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/journalpatientsafety/Abstract/publishahead/A_Systematic_Review_of_Systemic_Cobaltism_After.99652.aspx)

News Release: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/is-your-hip-replacement-poisoning-you-300110695.html>

### Hip Replacement (Metal on Metal) Videos -- A Patient Tells His Story.

A hard hitting series of YouTube Videos which gives the perspective from a patient who had a metal on metal hip implant. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeUB8HQVzTM>

## Healthcare Associated Infections



### Are Urinary Tract Infections Being Measured Correctly? Maybe Not and \$373 Million in Federal Fines May Be At Stake.

Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) occur in 290,000 U.S. hospital patients annually, with an estimated cost of \$290 million. Two different measurement systems are being used to track these infections. One has shown a 28.2% decrease, since 2010 and the other has shown a 3% to 6% increase since 2009. A hospital's rate of urinary catheter

infections make up almost a third of CMS's Hospital Acquired Condition penalty, which can penalize a hospital by 1% of its entire annual Medicare payment. It is recommended that the discrepancies in these two methods be reconciled and that a new measurement system be developed which takes into account efforts to decrease catheter utilization.

To read more on the recent article go to: <http://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553%2815%2900613-6/fulltext>

To read the news release go to: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/are-urinary-tract-infections-being-measured-correctly-maybe-not-and-373-million-in-federal-fines-may-be-impacted-if-they-are-not-300108468.html>

### **What do we do when antibiotics don't work any more?**

A TED Talk by Maryn McKenna <http://bit.ly/1fJn96>

Past Health Watch USA Presentation by Maryn

McKenna: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/conference2011/mckenna.htm>

### **The Rise of the Superbugs. Dangerous infections that are resistant to antibiotics are spreading and growing stronger, with dire consequences**

Consumer Reports: "The next time you're offered a prescription for antibiotics and ask yourself, "What harm could it do?" think about Peggy

Lillis." <http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/health/the-rise-of-superbugs/index.htm>

### **10 important tips for preventing deadly medical errors and infections**

<http://catchinghealth.bangordailynews.com/2015/06/25/im-not-your-mother-but/10-important-tips-for-preventing-deadly-medical-errors-and-infections/>

### **C. Difficile Infections Can Be Reduced By Up to 70%**

[http://www.idse.net/ViewArticle.aspx?ses=ogst&d=Hospital-acquired+infection&d\\_id=565&i=June+2015&i\\_id=1196&a\\_id=32843](http://www.idse.net/ViewArticle.aspx?ses=ogst&d=Hospital-acquired+infection&d_id=565&i=June+2015&i_id=1196&a_id=32843)

## **Hospital Readmission**

### **A Must View Video On Prevention Of Readmissions**

-- A Parody on how ridiculous this issue has become.

ZDoggMD was previously a hospitalist and presents a very poignant R&B Style on readmissions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aS3xaXsh6vo>

## Healthcare Finances



### Healthcare stocks surge after King v. Burwell decision which upheld the ACA.

Fierce HealthFinance: "Specifically, Tenet's rose 12 percent to an eight-month high, while HCA's increased 8 percent"

[Click on Picture to Enlarge](#)

<http://www.fiercehealthfinance.com/story/healthcare-stocks-surge-after-king-v-burwell-decision/2015-06-26>

### Patients are having trouble paying for healthcare, especially if they have high deductible plans.

"Once a bill exceeds 5% of household income, a patient's propensity to pay drops to nearly zero.." [www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20150624/NEWS/150629941](http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20150624/NEWS/150629941)

### Signs point to rise in premiums for benchmark silver plans

<http://www.fiercehealthpayer.com/story/signs-point-rise-premiums-benchmark-silver-plans/2015-06-25>



## Health Watch USA - Patient Safety Conference

November 13, 2015

At the Four Points Sheraton in Lexington, Kentucky

### Speakers Include:

- **Peter Eisler**, Medical Reporter for USA Today, presenting on the newspaper's role in the assurance of medical quality.
- **Briana Aguirre**, RN, Nurse and Healthcare Quality Advocate who treated the first patient with Ebola in Texas.

- **Kaci Hickox, MPH, RN**, Nurse and Healthcare Quality Advocate who treated patients with Ebola in Africa. She underwent mandatory quarantine upon her return to the United States, despite being asymptomatic and not having any history of a break in contact precaution protocols.
- **Richard Wild, MD, MPH**, Chief Medical Officer CMS Atlanta Region
- **Kraig Humbaugh MD, MSP** Director, Epidemiology and Health Planning Kentucky Department for Public Health.

**Download Conference Flyer:** <http://www.healthconference.org/2015conference-downloads/20151113-ConferenceFlyer-SDM.pdf>

**For More Information And a Full List of Speakers Go To:** [www.healthconference.org](http://www.healthconference.org)

**To Register Go To:** <http://www.healthconference.org/payment-fax-check.htm>

### **Future Health Watch USA Meetings:**

- Aug,19 at 7:00 PM ET. Speaker: Dr. David Mayer, MD, Vice President, Quality and Safety from MedStar Healthcare. <http://www.medstarhealth.org/mhs/about-medstar/medstar-health-leadership/david-mayer-md/>

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