

Interesting Quotes

Editorial Staff

Improper Blood Testing by ICUs

"Unwarranted laboratory testing of patients in hospital intensive care units (ICUs) continues to be a problem. Repeated blood testing can be so excessive as to cause anemia and the need for blood transfusions. The amount of blood drawn is primarily determined by the patient's severity of illness and diagnosis at ICU admission, but it varies substantially among ICUs across the country, according to a study supported in part by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (HS05787)."

Research Activities, October 1997.

Big, Bad Hospital Germs

"You can go into a hospital and you have a four in hundred chance of getting an infection you've never had before. In some hospitals, the odds are one in ten. What you will get in that hospital will be much worse than what you would have been contaminated with at home. They are the most tenacious organisms you can imagine. They can survive in detergent. They can actually live on a bar of soap. These are organisms that are part of our endgame."

Dr. Marc Lappe, author of *Germs That Won't Die* (1981). Quoted in *The Coming Plague* by Laurie Garrett.

It's Money that Matters?

"All the symptoms of protest confirm the same diagnosis -- a health-care industry sickened with the virus of 'medical-loss ratio' and unlikely to recover until cured of its addiction to the profit motive. A physician is not by nature a commodities broker, a clinic is not a meat-packing plant, and unless the health-care industry quits caring for money instead of people, its chronic pathology almost certainly will be referred to the consulting rooms of government. Not that the politicians will want to take the case, but let enough people make strong enough complaint, and the therapeutics committees in the country's legislatures might be forced to write a new and not so mean-spirited set of guidelines."

Ronald J. Glasser, MD
Harper's Magazine, March 1998

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