

Hollywood, Health & Society (HH&S) is a project of the USC Annenberg Norman Lear Center. Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Cancer Institute and partner agencies, HH&S is a free resource for entertainment writers working on medical and health storylines.

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Health Headlines

Keeping Bacteria in Check

A recent study shows that about three million cases of severe diarrhea occur each year and some may lead to death. The overuse of antibiotics is the likely culprit for the rise in these cases, caused by *C. difficile*, a harmless bacterium that lives in the colon, which becomes more harmful when other bacteria are killed off (*The Boston Globe*, 7/17/07). Learn more about [drug resistance](#) and occurrences in [nursing homes](#).

Different Asians, Different Cancers

Asians are learning that the longer you live in the U.S., the more likely you will have cancers related to U.S. lifestyles. A recent study reports that different Asian groups are prone to different types of cancers. Vietnamese men suffer high death rates from liver cancer, while Korean men and women have high rates of stomach cancer, and Filipino women have a high risk of developing breast cancer (*The New York Times*, 7/11/07). Read more about [cancer](#), [breast cancer](#), [liver cancer](#) and [stomach cancer](#).

Older is Better

Some diabetes drugs have extra added advantages, such as lowering cholesterol in the blood and reducing out-of-pocket costs. Results of a recent study show that some of the older drugs work better than newer, more expensive drugs (*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, 7/17/07). Read more on [diabetes](#).

Click [HERE](#) to see the results from our Health IQ quiz and survey questions.

News from Leading Health Agencies

Genetics Advances in Prostate Cancer

For the first time, NCI researchers report a variation in a gene segment that can predict prostate cancer risk in as many as one out of four cases. This could lead to better detection and novel therapies for 50,000 of the 200,000 men diagnosed each year. Read the [press release](#) and more on [prostate cancer](#).

Questions Are the Answers

Medical errors lead to more deaths each year than from motor vehicle accidents, breast cancer or AIDS. A national campaign urges Americans to ask more questions about their health and treatment when they visit the doctor, get a prescription or plan for a surgery. Learn more about the [campaign](#) and [medical errors](#) as well as [questions](#) to ask.

Frequent Flyers Donate Miles and Save Lives

You can now donate frequent flyer miles for transplant patients and their families. Northwest Airlines AirCares allows patients to fly to a transplant center for a bone marrow or cord blood transplant when someone donates their miles. Read more on the [press release](#), [organ donation](#) and [how to donate your miles](#).

Reducing Environmental Threats

Federal agencies join local governments to identify environmental health problems, reduce air emissions, address health concerns and screen for cancer – particularly breast and cervical cancers. Read the [press release](#) and more on the [projects](#) and [environmental health](#).

CATCH US IF YOU CAN!

Need health topics for scripts?
Need to talk to a health expert?
Need health posters for your set?

Click [HERE](#).

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Real People, Real Lives

Putting a Stop to Violence

A hospital-based intervention is drastically reducing the number of child victims who become adult victims or perpetrators of violence. *Caught in the Crossfire* treats innocent child bystanders for psychological injuries to ensure they have the support they need to avoid future violence (*The Sacramento Bee*, 7/17/07). Learn more about this [campaign](#), and [violence and homicide among youth](#).

New License for Life

Jason Mitchell, a 33-year-old African American, needs a new kidney. However, African Americans are less likely than Caucasians to be organ donors and race plays a role in organ matching. A California media campaign with the DMV has boosted donations by 40% by using TV and radio ads to urge minorities to become organ donors (*The Sacramento Bee*, 7/10/07). Read more about this [campaign](#) and [organ donation](#).

Patient Privacy Backfires

Nancy Banks drove halfway across the country to check on her mother after a stroke, when hospital nurses refused to give her further information. But it was too late – her mother suffered heart failure before she arrived. Countless relatives are denied access to medical information they should have because health providers are unclear about medical privacy (*The New York Times*, 7/3/07). Learn more about [patient rights and privacy](#).

A Day in the Life of a Quarantine Officer

Every year, 120 million people enter and leave the United States. This poses a challenge for CDC quarantine officers like Lieutenant Commander Bacon, who screen travelers and grant access into the U.S. The diligence of Bacon and other public health officials is vital to preventing the spread of diseases such as tuberculosis, SARS and pandemic flu (*The Washington Post*, 7/15/07). Read more on [quarantine](#) and [infectious diseases](#).

