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December 6th, 2023

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Headlines

[Models can predict when older adults with dementia may need nursing home care](#)

McKnight's Long Term Care News

December 5, 2023

It often can be difficult to determine when a person with dementia may need to go to a nursing home or receive that level of care. A new study created models to help people determine when older adults living with dementia will require nursing home-level care. The results can give people and their loved ones evidence-backed data if it comes time to make that decision. The study was published on Dec. 4 in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

[Why are the holidays so hard?](#)

Jenn Flaum, LCSW, MBA

Executive Director, Heartlight Center, Denver, CO

The holiday season can be filled with emotions that can be more profound and surprising than other times of the year, especially for individuals who are grieving. Subsequently, it is common for us to ask the question: Why are the holidays so hard?

Editor Note: The author includes several suggestions that may be helpful for you, your patients, and their family members.

[Lessons in Caregiving](#)

By Lisa B. Samalonis

Next Avenue

December 4, 2023

... When my parents, in their late 70s, became ill with several chronic and terminal health ailments, my sisters and I worked to support them and honor their wishes to age in their home. ... Like many adult children and family friends new to this process, we were unaware of everything we did not know about the complexity of safely aging in place and the available resources. ... Often, coordination of care is very challenging. ... Being a vocal advocate can help your loved one immensely. ... Yet, taking care of oneself allows one to care for others.

[Editor's Note: The author is a writer and editor based in New Jersey. She writes about health, parenting, books and personal finance.]

Hospice Provider News

[Banner Health to close hospice operations; staff moves to Phoenix nonprofit](#)

Phoenix Business Journal

December 4, 2023

Banner Health, the state's largest health system, is closing down its own hospice operations and is transitioning its patients and hospice staff to another provider. An

estimated 70 hospice staff from Phoenix-based Banner Health have begun the move over to Hospice of the Valley, effective Dec. 1.

[VITAS Expects a Steady 2024 for Revenue, Growth](#)

Hospice News

December 4, 2023

After the tumultuous years of the pandemic, VITAS Healthcare expects a stable growth trajectory heading into 2024. Florida-based VITAS is a subsidiary of Chemed Corp. Though the company has not yet released financial guidance for 2024, VITAS anticipates a “predictable” 2024 in terms of earnings and growth, executives said at Monday’s Bank of America Healthcare Conference.

Palliative Care Provider News

[How Value-Based Care, Investors Could Impact Palliative Care Staffing](#)

Palliative Care News

December 4, 2023

Interest in palliative care is rising among job-seeking clinicians, but the influx remains too slow to meet rising demand. ... Though far more resources are needed, more opportunities for clinical palliative care training have been emerging in recent years, according to Dr. Nathan Goldstein, currently professor of geriatrics and palliative medicine at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Clinical News

[Models can predict when older adults with dementia may need nursing home care](#)

McKnight’s Long Term Care News

December 5, 2023

It often can be difficult to determine when a person with dementia may need to go to a nursing home or receive that level of care. A new study created models to help people determine when older adults living with dementia will require nursing home-level care. The results can give people and their loved ones evidence-backed data if it comes time to make that decision. The study was published on Dec. 4 in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

[Guthrie held its Tree for Life event](#)

WENY-TV (Horseheads, NY)

December 4, 2023

Sayre, PA—Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital held its annual ‘Tree for Life’ event to support the Guthrie Hospice. This is the 34th year the hospital held the event. and many gathered to honor their loved ones.

[A nursing reboot—Jobs are on the rise in Florida](#)

Tampa Bay Times/Florida Trend

November 29, 2023

All the (nursing shortage) churn resulted in the highest vacancy and turnover rates for hospital RNs ever recorded by the Florida Hospital Association, which tracks such data. Three years later, there are signs of a rebound. Vacancy rates for hospital RNs have dropped from 21% in 2022 to 13% in 2023, and turnover dropped from 32% to 20% over the same period.

Regulatory News

[Government expects to recover more than \\$3B from healthcare fraud, misspent funds in fiscal year 2023](#)

Healthcare Dive

December 4, 2023

The HHS' Office of the Inspector General is expected to recover more than \$3.44 billion in fiscal year 2023 as a result of investigations into fraud and misspent funds in Medicare, Medicaid and other government health programs, according to the agency's latest report.

Public Policy News

[Supporters optimistic that aid-in-dying legislation could get vote in 2024 General Assembly](#)

Maryland Matters

December 4, 2023

... Maryland lawmakers have tried year after year, but so far, no bill to legalize medical aid in dying has passed. But supporters of the legislation think that 2024 might be the year it passes, due to a changing political climate and overall voter support for the measure.

M&A News

[Lifepoint Health and Ascension Saint Thomas announce joint venture](#)

Healthcare Dive

December 4, 2023

Rural hospital chain Lifepoint Health and Ascension Saint Thomas announced a joint venture last week to co-own Highpoint Health, a four-hospital system in Tennessee currently operated by Brentwood, Tennessee-based Lifepoint. The hospitals and care sites will be co-branded with Ascension Saint Thomas, but will be majority-owned and operated by Lifepoint, according to the release.

Post-Acute Care News

[California Officially Raises Minimum Wage For Home Health Care Workers](#)

Home Health Care News

December 4, 2023

California's home health workers are set to receive higher pay next year as a result of a minimum wage hike approved by the state legislature. ... The news will be greeted warmly by caregivers in the Golden State. However, experts in the home-based care space have worried before that the wage increase could have adverse effects on providers.

[Nursing home staffing rule finds scant political support](#)

Modern Healthcare

December 4, 2023

President Joe Biden's high-profile plan to improve nursing home quality by setting staffing minimums has attracted intense resistance and lukewarm support, regulatory comments and public statements reveal. The nursing home industry strenuously opposes the policy, which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services proposed Sept. 1.

[New Analysis Shows How Unaffordable Home Care Is Becoming For American Seniors](#)

Home Health Care News

December 4, 2023

Most Americans will need some sort of in-home care support as they age. The issue is that many of them cannot afford it. ... Only 14% of American seniors can afford to do so [pay for personal care services], however, according to a new analysis conducted by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University.

Technology / Innovations News

[Corewell Health cyberattack exposes personal data of 1M patients](#)

Crain's Detroit Business/Modern Healthcare

December 4, 2023

Corewell Health's Southeast Michigan operations were victims of a cyberattack that exposed the personal data of roughly 1 million of its patients and 2,500 of its Priority Health insurance members, the company announced. The cybersecurity breach occurred at Welltok Inc., a software company that works for many healthcare companies across the U.S., and exposed the data of 8.5 million people nationally, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel's office announced Friday.

General News

[Lessons in Caregiving](#)

By Lisa B. Samalonis

Next Avenue

December 4, 2023

... When my parents, in their late 70s, became ill with several chronic and terminal health ailments, my sisters and I worked to support them and honor their wishes to age in their home. ... Like many adult children and family friends new to this process, we were unaware of everything we did not know about the complexity of safely aging in place and the

available resources. ... Often, coordination of care is very challenging. ... Being a vocal advocate can help your loved one immensely. ... Yet, taking care of oneself allows one to care for others.

[Editor's Note: The author is a writer and editor based in New Jersey. She writes about health, parenting, books and personal finance.]

Bitter strike over as nurses, N.J. hospital reach tentative agreement

Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger

December 2, 2023

The nurses strike that lasted more than 120 days has finally ended. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital announced Friday that it has tentatively reached a new collective bargaining agreement with the United Steel Workers 4-200, which represents the 1,700 nurses who went on strike Aug. 4.

President Jimmy Carter's experience dispels hospice myths

By Aaron Wheeler

Des Moines Register

December 4, 2023

... What makes Carter's hospice situation a little different from most is that he first received hospice services in February 2023—a full 10 months ago, shortly after the recurrence of a life-limiting cancer. While many individuals and families view hospice services as a “last resort,” it's clear the Carters viewed it for what it is: a way to help people live as fully as they can as long as they are able. If I could change one thing about the way most people view hospice services, that would be that “hospice” is often a word people dread because of the “death sentence” connotation. In reality, hospice is not about giving up hope. It's about maximizing quality of life based on the individual's choices, and often about helping family members transition back from caregiver status to simply being a spouse or a son or a daughter again.

[Editor's Note: Aaron Wheeler is vice president of home and community-based services for WesleyLife, Johnston, IA].

8-year-old in hospice wants 2,000 cards for his birthday and Christmas

WEWS-TV (Cleveland, OH)

December 4, 2023

Cleveland, OH—If you are looking to give some love this holiday season, there is a young boy who would appreciate getting a Christmas or birthday card from you. Andrew Miller is an 8-year-old who enjoys cards and loves reading them every day. Linda Miller, Andrew's mom, said last year, her son was diagnosed with two types of Stage Four cancers. ... “He's got so many little tumors starting in our inoperable places and there's nothing we could do about it,” said Linda. So, his parents came up with a plan to get his spirits up again. “Every time something comes in the mail, he's all excited. So, for his birthday we're trying to get him 1000 birthday cards,” said Linda. ... If you would like to send a card, the mailing

information is: Buddy, Truman House Community Hospice, 716 Commercial Ave. SW, New Philadelphia, OH 44663.

Today's 10-Second Question

[Based on today's headline story, please share an example of how your organization supports caregivers during this Holiday season. Responses shared tomorrow.](#)

Yesterday's Question: What's one way your volunteers make a difference in your patient's lives?

Responses included: They cook meals for them and drop them off—sometimes a whole week's worth of meals (frozen).

Today's Encouragement

[History despite its wrenching pain cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again. ~Maya Angelou](#)

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