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December 18th, 2023

Contents

1. [2024: Healthcare Insiders Predict The Future](#)
2. [When being home for the holidays is a gift](#)
3. [Hospice of WF surpasses \\$300,000 goal in Tree of Lights campaign](#)
4. [Do People Want to Live Longer With Alzheimer's Disease?](#)
5. [Community comes together to trim tree of treasured memories](#)
6. [Three found guilty of fraud in South Florida nursing-school 'diploma mill' trial](#)
7. [National Health Expenditures 2022 Highlights](#)
8. [Palliative care for infants with life-limiting conditions: integrative review](#)
9. [How Changing Consolidation Rules Could Affect Hospice 'Megadeals'](#)
10. [In study ranking 'best' states for elder care, providers might be surprised to learn the winner](#)
11. [Nursing home COVID deaths climb, but vaccinations move slowly upward too](#)
12. [Big Medicare Changes Coming in 2024](#)
13. [The \(Surprisingly\) Good News on Life Expectancy—It's Still Going Up](#)
14. [Orlando Health boosts operating performance by \\$734M in FY 2023](#)
15. [Iowa nursing homes wait up to 41 months for an 'annual' inspection](#)
16. [Compassus Looking For More AI Use Cases, Risk-Bearing Partners In Near-Term Future](#)
17. [SLU Hospital nurses plan two-day strike in late-December](#)
18. [Other business headlines of interest](#)
19. [Horizon Home Care & Hospice announces CEO's retirement](#)

Headlines

[2024: Healthcare Insiders Predict The Future](#)

Forbes, 12/14/23

By Sachin H. Jain

Can others predict what the future holds for healthcare? To find out, I asked colleagues, friends and other people I admire in the healthcare industry to weigh in with their predictions for 2024. From AI to pharmaceuticals to the cost of care, their viewpoints cover a range of topics. I hope you find their predictions and insights as intriguing as I do.

Editor Note: Article includes 20 topics, including...

1. AI to Bridge the Gaps to Human-Centered Health Care
2. The Hype Around AI Transforming Medicine Will Accelerate While Usage by Clinicians Will Be More Limited
3. Alzheimer's Imaging and Treatment Will Explode, Even as Impact on Outcomes is Small
4. Response to Workforce Challenges Will See a Rapid Expansion of the Role of Community Health Worker
5. A New Focus on the Economic Fragility of Older Adults
6. Clinical organizations will invest in the clinician experience
7. Value-Based M&A
8. The Privatization of Palliative Care Will Continue
9. Consumerism in Healthcare
10. Health Care Costs as a Percent of GDP Will Go Down
11. Medicaid Becomes the New Third-Rail in American Politics
12. Medicare Advantage risk model changes will create a much tighter utilization environment

Hospice Provider News

[When being home for the holidays is a gift](#)

By Craig Dresang

Davis (CA) Enterprise

December 16, 2023

No one wants to think about hospice when the holidays are approaching, but this is precisely when it should be considered. Hospice care can keep loved ones at home and in the thick of all the family activities while their pain and symptoms are expertly managed, improving quality of life. Hospice enables your loved one to be where they feel most comfortable: their home. From medical support and personal care to companionship, hospice brings peace of mind to patients and their families now and all through the year.

[Editor's Note: The author is the CEO of Yolo Cares, Davis, CA.]

[Hospice of WF surpasses \\$300,000 goal in Tree of Lights campaign](#)

KAUZ-TV (Wichita Falls, TX)

December 15, 2023

Wichita Falls, TX—Since November 21, the Texoma community has worked hard to help the Hospice of Wichita Falls reach their goal, which this year was \$300,000. Alisa Echols, Executive Director at the hospice said with the amount of support that is shown throughout the year, she's never surprised to see the amount they hoped for is met. ... At the last check on Friday, \$315,000 was the amount raised.



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Clinical News

[Do People Want to Live Longer With Alzheimer's Disease?](#)

By Jason Karlawish, MD

Wall Street Journal

December 14, 2023

... As Robert, his wife and I talked about these [new] medicines [to treat patients with Alzheimer's disease], something very interesting happened. After objectively weighing the risks and benefits, we began to discuss an intensely personal and subjective question: Does he want to live longer with Alzheimer's disease? This question is ethically challenging. *Editor's Note: The author is a physician, co-director of the Penn Memory Center, and the author of "The Problem of Alzheimer's: How Science, Culture and Politics Turned a Rare Disease into a Crisis and What We Can Do About It."*

[Community comes together to trim tree of treasured memories](#)

Daily Star (Hammond, LA)

December 16, 2023

Hammond, LA—On the morning of Saturday, Dec. 9, members of the community came together for a standing-room-only remembrance celebration and to trim a Christmas tree with hand-picked ornaments symbolizing treasured memories of their loved ones. The "Memory Tree Remembrance Celebration" carries on a 31-year tradition that honors the lives of former hospice patients. Held in the E. Brent Dufreche Conference Center on the campus of North Oaks Medical Center, it is one component of North Oaks Hospice's bereavement counseling and support services provided to families and caregivers for one year following the death of their loved one.

[Three found guilty of fraud in South Florida nursing-school 'diploma mill' trial](#)

Miami Herald

December 15, 2023

Three people charged with playing crucial roles in a South Florida nursing-school “diploma mill” were found guilty by a federal jury Friday, after a three-week trial where prosecutors accused the defendants of corrupting the healthcare field. The defendants, a former registrar for the defunct Palm Beach School of Nursing and two recruiters from the northeast, were accused of selling fake transcripts and degrees to thousands of students for millions of dollars so they could qualify to attain licenses as nurses.



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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Regulatory News

[National Health Expenditures 2022 Highlights](#)

CMS Fact Sheet, 12/13/23

U.S. health care spending grew 4.1% to reach \$4.5 trillion in 2022, faster than the increase of 3.2% in 2021, but much slower than the rate of 10.6% in 2020. The growth in 2022 reflected strong growth in Medicaid and private health insurance spending that was somewhat offset by continued declines in supplemental funding by the federal government associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Research News

[Palliative care for infants with life-limiting conditions: integrative review](#)

BMJ Journals, 12/16/23

By Rebecca Iten, Moira O'Connor, and Fenella J. Gill

Background: Infants with life-limiting conditions are a heterogeneous population. Palliative care for infants is delivered in a diverse range of healthcare settings and by interdisciplinary primary healthcare teams, which may not involve specialist palliative care service consultation. Conclusion: There are complex issues surrounding the provision of palliative care for infants. Optimal palliative care should encompass a collaborative and coordinated approach between the primary healthcare teams and specialist palliative care services and prioritisation of palliative care education for nurses and physicians involved in providing palliative care to infants.

Mergers & Aquisition News

[How Changing Consolidation Rules Could Affect Hospice 'Megadeals'](#)

Hospice News

December 15, 2023

President Joe Biden in 2021 announced a set of new rules and guidelines for mergers and acquisitions, with pledges to implement by mid-2024. ... In the years since the administration took this position, scrutiny of M&A transactions has been on the rise, as have associated lawsuits and investigations by government agencies, including the U.S. Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

Post-Acute Care News

[In study ranking 'best' states for elder care, providers might be surprised to learn the winner](#)

McKnights Long-Term Care News, 12/15/23

By Josh Henreckson

A new study judging quality and access to elder care ranked all 50 states and named Iowa the top state in the country. ... California was the bottom-ranked state ... The top 10, in order, were: Iowa, Oklahoma, & Missouri, Louisiana, South Dakota, Kansas, Montana, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Nebraska.

[Nursing home COVID deaths climb, but vaccinations move slowly upward too](#)

McKnights Long-Term Care News, 12/15/23

By Kimberly Marselas

Deaths of nursing home patients from COVID-19 climbed as vaccination rates hit new lows last month, according to an updated analysis by the AARP Public Policy Institute and the Scripps Gerontology Center. ... But vaccinations, at first widely embraced by residents and later mandated for healthcare workers, drove infection and deaths rates down dramatically starting in 2021.

[Big Medicare Changes Coming in 2024](#)

AARP, 12/14/23

By Dena Bunis

The new year rings in more Rx drug savings, higher Part B premiums and new Advantage rules.

[The \(Surprisingly\) Good News on Life Expectancy—It's Still Going Up](#)

Wall Street Journal

December 15, 2023

Over the past decade a number of alarming stories have chronicled the decline of U.S. life expectancy in the midst of rising overdose deaths, Covid-19, alcohol-related deaths and suicides. It turns out there are two ways to measure mortality and life expectancy, and the

one you hear about the most paints a misleadingly pessimistic picture of the future. Last month the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said life expectancy, which hit a 25-year low in 2021, climbed to 74.8 years for men and 80.2 for women in 2022, but those were still well below prepandemic levels.

[Orlando Health boosts operating performance by \\$734M in FY 2023](#)

Becker's Hospital CFO Review

December 15, 2023

Orlando (FL) Health transformed a \$422.7 million operating loss (-8% margin) in fiscal year 2022 into a \$310.8 million gain (5.1% margin) in FY 2023, according to financial documents published Dec. 13. The results equate to a \$733.5 million swing from the black to the red. Revenue increased 15.9% year over year to \$6.1 billion while expenses rose 16.1% to \$5.6 billion.

[Iowa nursing homes wait up to 41 months for an 'annual' inspection](#)

Iowa Capital Dispatch

December 15, 2023

The state of Iowa isn't meeting the federally mandated standards for nursing home oversight, with some care facilities waiting up to 41 months for an annual inspection. Federal regulations require that no more than 15.9 months elapse between annual inspections at individual Medicaid-certified nursing homes. The regulations also require that, collectively, the state inspect all nursing homes on an average of 12.9 months, if not sooner.

Technology / Innovations News

[Compassus Looking For More AI Use Cases, Risk-Bearing Partners In Near-Term Future](#)

Home Health Care News, 12/12/23

By Patrick Filbin

As artificial intelligence becomes more applicable in health care, home-based care providers are finally diving into use cases that may work for them. The Brentwood, Tennessee-based Compassus is a prime example of that. A forward-thinking provider, it has been utilizing RPM and telehealth for years, even prior to COVID-19. Now, it's looking at ways it can fit AI into its operations.

Notable Mentions: Laura Temp leton, Compassus COO

General News

[SLU Hospital nurses plan two-day strike in late-December](#)

KTVI-TV (St. Louis, MO)

December 15, 2023

St. Louis, MO—A group of SLU Hospital nurses is planning a two-day strike later this month.

Organizers say the strike comes in protest of “union-busting” practices and outsourcing of RN jobs. Nurses gave their employer (SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital) notice Friday that they would plan a 48-hour strike. It’s currently scheduled outside the hospital from 7 a.m. on Dec. 27 to 6:59 a.m. on Dec. 29.

Other News

[Other Business Headlines of Interest ...](#)

- TD Cowen initiated coverage on shares of Addus HomeCare, MarketBeat reports. The firm issued an outperform rating and a \$105.00 price objective on the stock.
- Brookdale Senior Living was upgraded by stock analysts at Bank of America from an “underperform” rating to a “neutral” rating in a report issued on Friday, Briefing.com reports.
- Enhabit, Inc. has been assigned an average recommendation of “Reduce” from the six brokerages that are currently covering the company, MarketBeat.com reports.
- The Ensign Group, Inc. Increases Quarterly Dividend to \$0.06 Per Share.

[Horizon Home Care & Hospice announces CEO’s retirement](#)

Washington County Daily News, 12/16/23

MILWAUKEE — Horizon Home Care & Hospice announced on Thursday that CEO Mary Haynor will be retiring on Jan. 5, 2024. "Mary's outstanding leadership and 24-year commitment to Horizon has resulted in exceptional services in home care, hospice and grief support," said Chair of Horizon's Board of Directors and VP of Post Acute Care with Froedtert Health Diane Ehn in the release. "She has made a difference in the lives of others and this community impact will be her legacy."

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