

## Cordt Kassner

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December 21st, 2023

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## Headlines

### [\*\*Nurses First, Doctors Distant Second in Healthcare Provider Ratings\*\*](#)

*Gallup Organization*

December 18, 2023

Washington, DC—At the end of a year when Gallup found Americans' confidence in the U.S. medical system at its lowest in a decade, a new survey reveals that some prominent players in the system are still widely acclaimed while others are not. Nurses receive the best rating by far, with 82% saying they provide excellent or good medical care, and doctors rank second at 69%.

### [\*\*A Lukewarm Home Health, Hospice Dealmaking Year Comes To A Close\*\*](#)

*Home Health Care News*

December 19, 2023

Following consecutive record years for health care transactions, 2023 was a comparatively lukewarm time for home health and hospice dealmaking activity. That's according to a recent report from PwC. Specifically, there were 95 home health and hospice deals in the 12 months examined by PwC, which ended on Nov. 15., compared to 114 during the same period last year. The deals were worth \$4.7 billion. ... PwC experts believe that M&A will likely be a key growth and profit driver next year.

## Hospice Provider News

### [\*\*Hudson Valley Hospice Opens its First Residence\*\*](#)

*Hudson Valley Press (Newburgh, NY)*

December 19, 2023

Poughkeepsie, NY—Michael Kaminski, President and CEO of Hudson Valley Hospice, announced that the Hudson Valley Hospice House is now open to patients. ... Suites can also be converted for pediatric patient care to meet the extraordinary needs of our youngest patients and their loved ones.



## Accelerate Results Accelerate Growth Accelerate Learning

*[Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today](#)*

### **LCHD head defends hospice program budget**

*Pen City Current (Fort Madison, IA)*

December 19, 2023

Fort Madison, IA—It would appear that a push by some on the Lee County Board of Supervisors to get out of the hospice business is at a stand still. At Monday's regular meeting of the board, Keokuk resident Mary Jo Reisberg and an employee of the health department advocated for the county staying in the hospice business to make sure that every county resident has a choice for care. ... Several members of the board, including Chairman Garry Seyb, said they don't think the county should be engaged in business that competes with private for-profit companies.

### **Charity fashion show raises \$37,000 for hospice patients**

*Suncoast News (Port Richey, FL)*

December 19, 2023

New Port Richey, FL—Nearly \$37,000 was raised at the Candace Glewen Charity Fashion Show on Dec. 5 to benefit Gulfside Hospice, with proceeds to provide patient care and bereavement support for the community.

### **Rome Community Foundation awards nearly \$184K in fourth-quarter grants**

*Central New York Business Journal*

December 19, 2023

Rome, NY—The Rome Community Foundation announced it has awarded \$183,616 in grants—ranging from \$500 to \$25,000 each—to 21 Rome-area charitable organizations. The recipients include: Hospice and Palliative Care, \$15,000; ...



## HOSPICE ANALYTICS

TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

## Clinical News

### [Knitting and crocheting group gets social, donates to projects in St. Clair Shores](#)

*St. Claire Shores (MI) Sentinel*

December 19, 2023

St. Claire Shores, MI—The Senior Activity Center’s knitting and crocheting group makes projects for those in need, and also provides much needed social time for its members. Judy Wendler, a member of the group, said the group makes lap robes for two hospice groups: Grace Hospice and Compassus Hospice. ... Wendler said it takes a couple weeks to make a lap robe. ... “The feeling that somebody made it for them is the highlight,” Wendler said.

### [San Diego County’s first class of physician assistants graduates, seen as key to easing staffing shortages](#)

*San Diego Union-Tribune*

December 18, 2023

... Point Loma Nazarene University minted its first 28 physician assistants Friday, injecting a fresh set of trained troops into an ongoing battle to keep up with the increased demands for health care caused by an aging population and an exodus of burnt-out medical providers in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was the first graduating class of the university’s new physician assistant program and the first crop of locally trained PAs for any institution in San Diego County.

### [There are more Florida nursing students but fewer qualified applicants, a report shows](#)

*Health News Florida*

December 19, 2023

The number of students enrolling in nursing programs in Florida is increasing. But colleges and universities are reporting a drop in qualified applicants. That’s one of the findings in a new report from the Florida Center for Nursing. It surveyed more than 500 programs over the past year—most of them in Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. ... Rayna Letourneau, the center’s executive director, says Florida needs to start recruiting while students are young. ... The report also finds a decrease in nursing faculty.

### [Tired of the waiting lists for CA public universities, nursing students increasingly turn to expensive private programs](#)

*Press-Democrat (Santa Rosa, CA)*

December 18, 2023

... Private nursing schools are teaching more students each year, filling in the gaps as California hospitals face increasing staffing shortages and public, four-year universities struggle to grow. According to the California Board of Registered Nursing, in 2021 nearly

64,300 students applied for just 16,600 spots in associate, bachelor's, and master's degree nursing programs. About 55% of those spots were at private institutions.

## Public Policy News

### [Dying without needless pain is a human right—just not in Virginia](#)

*By Ryan Garnowski*

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

December 19, 2023

As I sat beside my mother in hospice for 11 somber days, I couldn't help but wonder if this supposed pinnacle of "comfort care" was truly the humane end many insisted it to be. ...There's plenty of speculation one could make as to why MAID isn't more widespread. ... Regardless of the reason, the fact remains: States without MAID policies are condemning the terminally ill to unnecessary anguish. ... Still, it's precisely because our medical community can't predict the time, manner or conditions of one's death that MAID should be a no-brainer. Nearly all end-of-life reform advocacy groups make clear that a self-managed death isn't the same as suicide or euthanasia, and is instead a peaceful, humane and seemingly preferable alternative to the horrible conditions some in their final days endure.

### [A plea before dying—on behalf of those who might need it](#)

*By Burt Riskedahl*

*Twin Cities Pioneer Press*

December 19, 2023

I am so grateful for many of the important legislative bills approved in the 2023 session of the Minnesota Legislature, particularly those that protect reproductive health rights, ensure LGBTQ access to needed care and treatment, and provide significant funding for increased access to education. ... Regretfully, the Legislature failed to enact another important measure, the Minnesota End-of-Life Options Act, that would have also provided important rights to people.

### [New York's Legislature should show love, compassion by passing Medical Aid in Dying Act](#)

*By Rena Schwartzbaum*

*Westchester (NY) News*

December 19, 2023

My mother, Lillian, 88, was a Holocaust survivor and a life-long fighter. She lived through Hitler, Stalin, diphtheria, a displaced person's camp, the loss of her husband of 58 years and one cancer diagnosis. It was her second cancer—a very rare angiosarcoma that was the result of the radiation treatment for her first cancer—that proved too much for her. After many weeks of painful symptoms, deteriorating health, and unsuccessful treatment, she told us she was tired of fighting. She begged my brother and me to help her die. I

started to research what was possible and found we could not honor her last wish in the state she had called home for more than sixty years.

### [The Hospice Action Network Presents 2023 Angel Awards Honorees](#)

*News Release*

December 19, 2023

Alexandria, VA—The Hospice Action Network (HAN), the advocacy affiliate group of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), is pleased to announce its 2023 Hospice Action Network Angel Award Honorees. ... New this year is the addition of the first-ever “Courageous Conversations Award” to be presented, when merited, to a standout individual who has inspired and educated the public on the value of hospice. At 99, former President Jimmy Carter is the longest living U.S. President and the first known President to utilize the Medicare Hospice Benefit. This year’s HAN award recipients are as follows:

The Courageous Conversations Award, 2023 Honoree

- 39th U.S. President Jimmy Carter

2023 HAN Angel Award Honorees

- Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI)
- Senator John Barrasso (WY)
- Senator Deb Fischer (NE)
- Senator Shelley Capito (WV)
- Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (NV)
- Senator Jacky Rosen (NV)
- Congressman Earl Blumenauer (OR)
- Congressman Jimmy Panetta (CA)
- Congresswoman Beth Van Duyne (TX)
- Congressman Brad Wenstrup (OH)

## **Mergers & Acquisition News**

### [Residential Hospice Acquires Safe Haven](#)

*Hospice News*

December 19, 2023

Residential Hospice has acquired Illinois-based Safe Haven Hospice from the senior living provider Christian Horizons for an undisclosed sum. The transaction expands Residential’s presence in four Illinois counties.

### [FTC, DOJ finalize merger guidelines that could impede healthcare M&A](#)

*Healthcare Dive*

December 19, 2023

Federal antitrust agencies on Monday finalized stricter guidelines for mergers and

acquisitions that could make it more difficult for healthcare deals to close. The guidelines lay out a framework that the Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission use when reviewing proposed deals and that the courts can reference in overseeing challenges.

### [Jefferson, Lehigh Valley Health to merge in 2024](#)

*Modern Healthcare*

December 19, 2023

Jefferson and Lehigh Valley Health Network plan to merge next year, creating a system of 30 hospitals and more than 700 care sites in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The two health systems said Tuesday they have signed a non-binding letter of intent to merge and plan to sign a definitive agreement and close the transaction sometime in 2024, pending regulatory approval.

### [John Muir, Tenet hospital deal collapses following FTC lawsuit](#)

*Healthcare Dive*

December 19, 2023

John Muir Health will not acquire San Ramon Regional Medical Center from Tenet Healthcare following a lawsuit from the Federal Trade Commission filed last month. The FTC announced on Monday it dismissed its lawsuit seeking to block John Muir's acquisition after the hospital systems agreed to terminate the deal last week.

## **Post-Acute Care News**

### [Joliet nurses likely to reject Ascension's 'last, best and final' contract offer](#)

*Shaw Local News Network*

December 18, 2023

Joliet, IL—The Illinois Nurses' Association at Ascension St. Joseph—Joliet is voting on the hospital's "last best and final offer" for a new contract and is expected to reject the contract proposal.

### [What to know about home healthcare and home care](#)

*Modern Healthcare*

December 19, 2023

Efforts to move more care into the home got a boost last week when the Biden administration announced \$37 billion in funding to support home- and community-based services through the American Rescue Plan Act. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is encouraging states to use the money to create registries for consumers of direct care workers who can provide home-based care to Medicaid beneficiaries, as well as those who do not receive Medicaid benefits. ... Here is what you need to know about the services and their growth. ...

### [CNA Turnover Linked to Scheduling Choices, Staff Stability, Optimal Hours Worked](#)

*Skilled Nursing News*

December 19, 2023

Part-time certified nursing assistants play a crucial role in providing patient care at skilled nursing facilities mired with staffing shortages, and yet they face high turnover rates. Washington State University analyzed the impact of scheduling decisions on part-time CNA turnover, addressing three key research questions related to hours worked and coworker variability. ... The study revealed a “U-shaped relationship” between hours worked and turnover—meaning too few hours or too many hours worked impacted turnover.

## Technology / Innovations News

### [Health Care: To Advance Effective AI Strategy, Lay Policy Groundwork](#)

Wall Street Journal, 12/19/23

Integrating an understanding of public policy into AI strategy and design can help health care organizations stay directionally aligned with policy trends while advancing their tech strategy. ... Many health care leaders may be keen to roll out AI within their organizations to promote efficiency and drive value, but moving too fast may have the opposite effect.

## General News

### [Survey finds rampant discrimination in health care](#)

*Public News Service*

December 19, 2023

In a new poll, 25% of voters say they have “personally experienced or witnessed discrimination in health care due to race, ethnicity, gender, disability, religion or sexual orientation.” The poll, sponsored by Compassion & Choices, an end-of-life care advocacy group, included more than 1,600 voters from California and across the United States. “It was striking that one-quarter of voters report that they personally experienced or witnessed discrimination in health care, with an even higher 35% among Black people, 29% among Hispanics and 41% among people who are LGBT,” said pollster Amy Simon, a partner at Goodman Simon Strategic Research.

### [Caregivers more financially burdened, less prepared for large emergency expenses](#)

*McKnight's Senior Living*

December 19, 2023

Caregivers are more likely to be burdened by finances and less likely to be prepared than noncaregivers for large emergency expenses, according to data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute. ... The report noted that caregivers are predominantly women and minorities. They tend to be older, single workers as well, compared to the workforce at large. ... Still, according to the data, caregivers are more likely to find themselves in a pickle when emergency expenses arise, such as a costly prescription or a medical expense exceeding \$5,000.

## Other News



### **Today's Number: 0.5%**

Wall Street Journal, 12/20/23

U.S. Population Grew 0.5% As Pandemic Effects Faded.

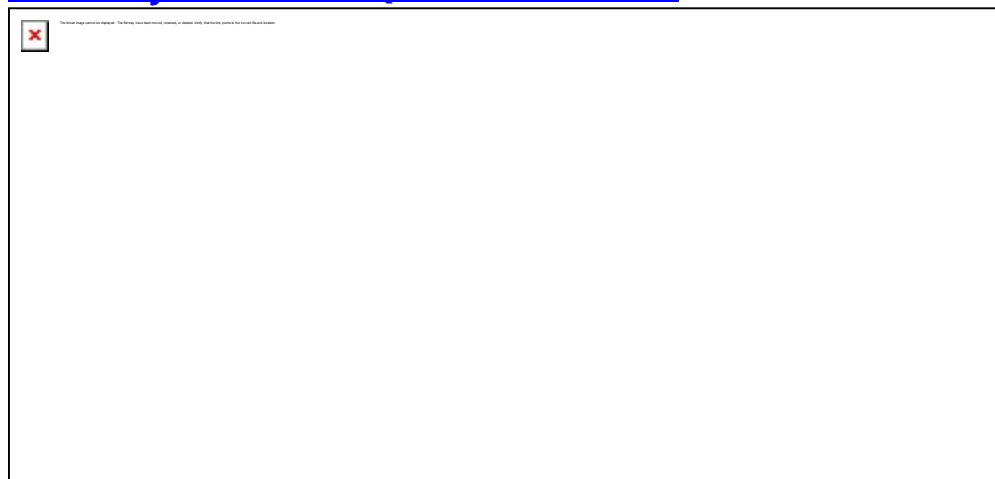
### **Amy Abernethy to step down as Verily's chief medical officer in latest departure from company.**

STAT, 12/19/23

Amy Abernethy, the president of product development and chief medical officer at Verily, a health care spinout of search giant Alphabet, will leave the company at the end of the first quarter to start a nonprofit aimed at changing the way the health care system collects data.

## **Today's 10-Second Question**

### **Yesterday's 10-Second Question - Answers**



Other Responses: To get a jump on the competition.

## **Today's Encouragement**

**"It's not about presents but it is about your presence. Therein lies the spirit of the holiday season."**

**Julianne O'Connor**

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