

## Cordt Kassner

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December 28th, 2023

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## Headlines

### [Hospital merger activity to increase in 2024](#)

*Modern Healthcare*

December 26, 2023

Hospital merger and acquisition activity is expected to increase next year as hospitals

manage financial pressure, competitors combine and insurers grow. ... The number of announced hospital deals through the third quarter rose by more than 50%, to 53 proposed transactions from 35 last year, according to data from consultancy Kaufman Hall. Deal activity was particularly pronounced among midsized health systems ranging from \$1 billion to \$5 billion in annual revenue. ... Nearly 40% of the 18 proposed hospital deals announced in the third quarter were driven by financial distress, according to Kaufman Hall.

### **[Serious Medical Errors Rose After Private Equity Firms Bought Hospitals](#)**

*New York Times*

December 26, 2023

The rate of serious medical complications increased in hospitals after they were purchased by private equity investment firms, according to a major study of the effects of such acquisitions on patient care in recent years. The study, published in JAMA on Tuesday, found that, in the three years after a private equity fund bought a hospital, adverse events including surgical infections and bed sores rose by 25 percent among Medicare patients when compared with similar hospitals that were not bought by such investors. The researchers reported a nearly 38 percent increase in central line infections, a dangerous kind of infection that medical authorities say should never happen, and a 27 percent increase in falls by patients while staying in the hospital.

## **Hospice Provider News**

### **[Community Foundation Event Raises Funds for Hospice](#)**

*Photo Caption*

*KCII-AM (Washington, IA)*

December 26, 2023

Washington, IA—The Community Foundation of Washington County shared proceeds raised with the Dessert Auction at their recent Chef Spotlight Fundraising Dinner with Hospice of Washington County. CFWC board members presented a check in the amount of \$5,125 to Katrina Altenhofen, Hospice Director.



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**[Super One Foods Wadena and Baxter help raise \\$3,925.08 for Knute Nelson hospice program](#)**

*Pioneer Journal (Wadena, MN)*

December 26, 2023

Wadena, MN—Super One Foods Wadena and Super One Foods Baxter partnered with the Knute Nelson Foundation on a fund raising drive to benefit the Hospice Program. From Nov. 10 through Nov. 27 customers were able to round up or select a donation amount at the registers to donate towards the hospice program. ... [A] total of \$ 3,925.08 was donated.

## Clinical News

**[For underserved patients, Alzheimer’s care requires balance, respect, and cultural sensitivity](#)**

*Pittsburgh News*

December 20, 2023

*Dr. Jennifer Hagerty Lingler*

Dementia syndromes like Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) are challenging conditions, but even more so for people who live in underserved communities with little or no health resources or support. That includes help handling ethical questions that impact decisions about AD disclosure, safety, treatment, and end-of-life care. ... When marginalized people participate in AD research specifically, ethical questions arise about consent as the disease progresses and the participant loses their ability to make decisions.

**[The dementia crisis is here. Better training can’t wait.](#)**

*Editorial*

*Washington Post*

December 22, 2023

... [A] rise in the number of older Americans also means a rise in the number of people with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. ... Recent years have brought a substantial increase in people with dementia residing in assisted-living homes. As a *Post* investigative series has revealed in appalling detail, these centers aren’t always equipped to provide the special care that people with dementia need.



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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## [Hospice volunteer rule to return in '24 Requirement to resume in U.S., state](#)

*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette (Little Rock, AR)*

December 24, 2023

On Jan. 1, 2024, the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will reinstate rules that, among other things, require volunteers to provide at least 5% of care hours at hospices across the country, including in Arkansas. Those rules were lifted during the first years of the covid pandemic ...

## **Mergers & Aquisition News**

### [Mercy medical record transition heats up in bankruptcy court](#)

*The Gazette (Cedar Rapids, IA)*

December 22, 2023

Iowa City, IA—Among the complexities of a Mercy Iowa City bankruptcy sale to the University of Iowa is the transition of its electronic medical system—with any gap or abrupt termination of system operations posing “significant” threat to Mercy and its patients.

## **Post-Acute Care News**

### [ProMedica's bond rating improved from 'negative' to 'stable' by Moody's](#)

*WTOL-TV (Toledo, OH)*

December 26, 2023

Moody's Investors Service has announced that it has upgraded ProMedica's bond rating from “negative” to “stable.” The firm said the change reflects the sale of ProMedica's hospice and home-care divisions, as well as the elimination of bank debt. The news release from Moody's indicates ProMedica still has about \$1.8 billion of debt.

## **General News**

### ['Fight's not over' striking Lower Bucks Hospital nurses say as they head back to work](#)

*Bucks County Courier Times*

December 26, 2023

Bucks County, PA—Nurses at Lower Bucks Hospital are scheduled to return to work Wednesday morning after a five-day strike without having reached a deal with the hospital owner Prime Healthcare Services Inc.

## **International News**

### [Hockey For Hospice Tournament Kicks Off Wednesday](#)

*WindsorDOTca.com (Windsor, ON)*

December 26, 2023

Windsor, ON—The annual Hockey For Hospice tournament is back for the 27th year taking place on December 27th, 28th and 29th, 2023. Originally conceived as a skate-a-thon by

tournament founder, Tim Beaulieu, Hockey For Hospice has grown each year from its humble beginnings. This year's edition will include a schedule of more than 215 games played at four different arenas over three days. ... Over the past 26 years, Hockey For Hospice has raised more than \$4.7 million.

## Today's Encouragement

**"Faith is the bird that sings when dawn is still dark." Rabindranath Tagore**

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