

## Cordt Kassner

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## Headlines

### [Palliative Care Consultation and Family-Centered Outcomes in Patients With Unplanned Intensive Care Unit Admissions](#)

*Journal of Palliative Medicine*

*Jamie T Nomitch, et.al.*

*December 25, 2023*

**Context:** Hospitalized patients who experience unplanned intensive care unit (ICU) admissions face significant challenges, and their family members have unique palliative care needs.

**Objectives:** To identify predictors of palliative care consultation among hospitalized patients with unplanned ICU admissions and to examine the association between palliative

care consultation and family outcomes.

**Conclusions:** For patients experiencing un planned ICU admission, palliative care consultation often happened after transfer and was associated with illness severity, comorbid illness, and hospital site. Patient death was associated with family symptoms of psychological distress.

## Hospice Provider News

### [Non-profit hospice group uses thrift store to help fund their services](#)

*WMAZ-TV (Macon, GA)*

December 27, 2023

Warner-Robins, GA—This thrift store might sell a variety of goods, but the proceeds help terminally ill patients get the end-of-life services they need. Sheila Redding is the store manager for the Heart of Georgia Hospice thrift store. She enjoys the opportunity to give back. Since 2021, the thrift store has provided more than \$80,000 for hospice services.

## Palliative Care Provider News

### [Palliative care pioneer named chief medical officer of The Elizabeth Hospice](#)

*San Diego Union-Tribune*

December 24, 2023

Escondido, CA—Charles von Gunten, M.D., F.A.A.H.P.M. is the new chief medical officer for The Elizabeth Hospice and will oversee all medical aspects of the organization's hospice and palliative care and services. ... Von Gunten is a pioneer in palliative medicine. He was the founding chairman of the test committee for Hospice & Palliative Medicine, American Board of Internal Medicine on behalf of nine American Board of Medical Specialties member boards. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine in 2011.



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## Clinical News

### [Cannabis sales on hold in Mississippi over 'regulatory standards' gaffe](#)

*WMC-TV (Memphis, TN)*

December 25, 2023

A large number of medical cannabis products are not being sold in Mississippi for the time being. The Mississippi State Department of Health says the products have been put on an administrative hold “to protect the health and safety of medical cannabis patients.” ... One of the products that was tested failed for eight pesticides, but that was just one of 13 products Steep Hill tested, with all of them containing THC levels 30 to 40 times over the legal limit. MSDH says retesting is being done as quickly as possible.

## Public Policy News

### [Death by Doctor May Soon Be Available for the Mentally Ill in Canada](#)

*New York Times*

December 27, 2023

Canada already has one of the most liberal assisted death laws in the world, offering the practice to terminally and chronically ill Canadians. But under a law scheduled to take effect in March assisted dying would also become accessible to people whose only medical condition is mental illness, making Canada one of about half a dozen countries to permit the procedure for that category of people. That move has divided Canadians, some of whom view it as a sign that the country’s public health care system is not offering adequate psychiatric care, which is notoriously underfunded and in high demand.

## Mergers & Acquisition News

### [Brookdale Sells 20% Stake in Hospice, Home Health JV with HCA](#)

*Hospice News*

December 27, 2023

Brookdale Senior Living has sold its remaining 20% stake in its hospice, home health and therapy joint venture with HCA Healthcare for \$27 million. The company did not name the buyer. The joint venture formed in 2021 when the senior housing operator sold an 80% stake in its health care services segment to HCA, a large hospital operator, in a \$400 million transaction.



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## General News

## [Saint Louis University Hospital readies for 2-day nurse strike](#)

*Becker's Hospital Review*

December 26, 2023

Nurses represented by National Nurses United are set to begin a two-day strike at Saint Louis University Hospital in St. Louis. Dec. 27. ... The union said the strike is in response to hospital management's "persistent union-busting and outsourcing of RN jobs." This is the second strike the union has called this year at Saint Louis University Hospital, with the first taking place in September.

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