

**From:** Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter  
**Sent:** <subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>  
**To:** Saturday, December 30, 2023 4:00 AM  
**Subject:** Cordt Kassner  
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December 30th, 2023

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## Headlines

### [How broadband expansion is bolstering rural healthcare](#)

*Modern Healthcare*

December 26, 2023

Health systems have emerged as crucial collaborators in government efforts to improve access to high-speed internet in rural communities. Nearly 30 million people in the U.S. live in places that lack broadband infrastructure, according to the Commerce Department.

## Hospice Provider News

### [New residential end-of-life facility opens in central Pa.](#)

Patriot-News (Harrisburg, PA)

December 26, 2023

Chambersburg, PA—Mercy House of Chambersburg has opened at 730 Norland Ave. in Chambersburg. Mercy House was formed last year and partners with local hospice agencies in providing care for those who need 24-hour assistance and who are unable to remain at home.

### [Bank Employees Go Above and Beyond—Donations Exceed \\$100,000 in 2023](#)

PRNewswire

December 28, 2023

Lake City, FL—First Federal Bank is pleased to announce the success of its 2023 First Federal Way campaign, which received contributions of \$50,430 from employees. With the bank's match, a total of \$100,900 is being donated to local non-profit agencies who make a significant difference in their communities.



**Accelerate Results  
Accelerate Growth  
Accelerate Learning**

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### [Aaron A. & Maria H. Putnam Family Charitable Trust gives grant to Aroostook Hospice Foundation](#)

The County (Presque Isle, ME)

December 26, 2023

Presque Isle, ME—The Aroostook Hospice Foundation, owner of the Aroostook House of Comfort, is delighted to announce the receipt of a generous \$5,000 grant from the Aaron A. and Maria H. Putnam Family Charitable Trust of Houlton.

## Palliative Care Provider News

## **Top 5 'Hidden Gem' Palliative Care News Stories from 2023**

*Hospice News, by Holly Vossel; 12/18/23*

1. 'This Is Different': Building a Sustainable Palliative Care Workforce
2. Providers Hit Obstacles to Scaling Palliative Care
3. Earlier Palliative Care Yields Higher ROI
4. U.S. Patients Have Unequal Access to Palliative Care
5. Pediatric Palliative Care Providers Seek to Improve Parental Engagement

## **Clinical News**

### **One-third of academic physicians intend to leave current institution within 2 years**

*Becker's Hospital Review, by Ashleigh Hollowell; 12/18/23*

More than one-third of academic physicians reported that they intend to leave their current institution within the next two years, according to a cross-sectional survey of 18,719 in the role at 15 academic-affiliated health systems.



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## **Public Policy News**

### **I Promised My Sister I Would Write About How She Chose to Die**

*By Steven Petrow, Guest Columnist*

*New York Times*

December 28, 2023

On the day before my sister Julie died, I lay down on her bed and held her gingerly in my arms, afraid that any pressure would hurt her. She had lost so much weight that she looked like a stick figure I might have drawn when we were kids. ... Julie never wavered in her decision, which proved a godsend for the rest of us. ... I also vowed to keep my promise to tell this story, a brother's last act of devotion to a sister he loved beyond all measure.

## **Post-Acute Care News**

### **New services help post-acute, hospital partnerships**

*Modern Healthcare*

December 27, 2023

Nursing homes and home healthcare companies are branching into new lines of business to increase revenue as demand for post-acute care rises and Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements stagnate. It is a trend that Ash Shehata, a partner at business consulting firm KPMG, has been tracking for the past two years. Healthcare providers are under increasing pressure from insurers to quicken the move of patients to less-costly settings.

### **'Now is the time' for hospital-at-home: Medically Home CEO**

*Modern Healthcare, by Diane Eastabrook; 12/20/23*

Modern Healthcare spoke with four CEOs from the hospital, technology, hospital-at-home and insurance sectors about the hurdles they faced in 2023 and their predictions for the upcoming year.

## **Technology / Innovations News**

### **1 million Corewell Health patients could be impacted by second data breach**

*Ann Arbor (MI) News*

December 26, 2023

Grand Rapids, MI—About one million Corewell Health patients in southeast Michigan may have had their personal and medical information exposed in yet another nationwide data breach. ... It comes less than a month after a data breach of another Corewell Health vendor that also is believed to have exposed similar personal and medical information of about one million patients serviced by the health system in southeast Michigan.

### **Health IT Trends for 2024: Innovations, Challenges, and Implications**

*Medriva / Digital Health, by Dr. Jessica Nelson; 12/19/23*

The upcoming changes are set to revolutionize healthcare, making it more efficient, accessible, and personalized. These trends underscore the importance of healthcare professionals and organizations staying informed and prepared.

1. Economics, Efficiencies, and Automation
2. Generative AI and Large Language Models (LLMs)
3. Telemedicine and Remote Patient Monitoring
4. Data Analytics and Population Health Management
5. Augmented and Virtual Reality Technologies
6. Blockchain Technology and HealthTech
7. Patient Engagement and Empowerment

## **General News**

### **America has a life expectancy crisis. But it's not a political priority.**

*Washington Post*

December 28, 2023

The commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration had an urgent message last winter for his colleagues, brandishing data that life expectancy in the United States had fallen again—the biggest two-year decline in a century. Robert Califf's warning, summarized by three people with knowledge of the conversations, boiled down to this: Americans' life expectancy is going the wrong way.

### **Lawsuit—Minnesota's free training hurt nursing assistant schools**

*Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)*

December 26, 2023

A group of nursing assistant training schools has sued Minnesota, saying their business has been undercut by the state's free training program. With its no-cost training for would-be nursing assistants, Minnesota's two-year-old Next Generation Nursing Assistant training program has been hailed as a solution to the state's worsening health care labor shortage. But providers left on the outside of that program say they have struggled. < /p>

### **What is hospice care? 6 myths about this end-of-life option**

*NPR*

December 28, 2023

... Former President Jimmy Carter, the longest-living former president in American history at age 99, joined those numbers in February when his family announced he was entering hospice. ... Many assumed the decision meant that Carter wouldn't be alive for much longer. But contrary to popular belief, hospice care isn't necessarily only for people who have just a few days to live, nor does it mean giving up care entirely. ... Here's the truth about some of the myths about hospice care and how it works.

## **Today's Encouragement**

**"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."**

**Søren Kierkegaard**

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