

## Cordt Kassner

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## Headlines

### **[Here are the new state healthcare laws taking effect in 2024](#)**

*Modern Healthcare, by Hayley Desilva; 1/2/24*

Health providers and insurers will have to navigate a bevy of state laws that took effect with the new year, covering key issues such as reproductive care, patient documentation, wages and reimbursement. Access this article for basic descriptions of new laws for the following states:

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Maine
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia
- West Virginia

*Editor's Note: Modern Healthcare requires you to create a free account.*

### **[12 healthcare trends and issues we are following for 2024](#)**

*Becker's Hospital Review, by Scott Becker and Molly Gamble; 1/2/24*

The year begins with a number of challenges that have only intensified for U.S. healthcare providers. Below are a dozen trends and issues that commanded our attention throughout 2023 and hold our curiosity in the year ahead. These patterns and shifts directly or

indirectly influence how healthcare providers fare in 2024, and ultimately affect how Americans access, afford and receive care.

1. Healthcare has a worsening numbers problem. ...
2. The payers have become massive. ...
3. The largest employer of physicians is one of the world's largest insurers. ...
4. Governmental healthcare payers, between Medicare and Medicaid, are now combined to be larger than commercial payer sources. ...
5. Technology is part of a solution, but not the entire solution. ...
6. The movement to value-based care is still very much a work in process. ...
7. Medicare Advantage now covers more than half of the Medicare population. ...
8. Mental and behavioral health in the U.S. has reached a critical stage with a worsening imbalance of needs and demands versus supply. ...
9. Washington, D.C., tends to make noise about the impact of private equity in healthcare. ...
10. Aging well/preventive health is seeing a growth in interest. ...
11. The diabetes/obesity drugs can have a large positive long term impact on healthcare. ...
12. Hospital margins largely improved in 2023, but hospitals face huge long-term financial challenges. ...

## Hospice Provider News

### [Stepping forward to enhance end-of-life care](#)

*Laker Lutz News, by Mary Rathman; 1/2/23*

Gulfside Hospice, a leading provider of compassionate health care services, hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for its newest venture — a state-of-the-art Gulfside Hospice Care Center — on Dec. 8, on the future grounds of the center.



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**Accelerate Learning**

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### [Corporations award \\$20K in grants to make hospice care accessible in Texarkana area](#)

*Texarkana Gazette; 1/1/24*

A local nonprofit has received \$20,000 in grants to make end-of-life care accessible. Tyson Foods, Weyerhaeuser and Union Pacific recently awarded the funding to Hospice of

Texarkana's Diversity & Inclusive Care Project. The project is a comprehensive educational and awareness program to address demographic disparities in hospice and palliative care in Northeast Texas and Southwest Arkansas. It includes staffing, training, and community outreach.

### [Marin hospice merges with 2 others in Bay Area](#)

*Marin Independent Journal, by Kari Brenner; 1/2/24*

The Marin hospice organization By the Bay Health is merging with two other Bay Area hospices to create the largest independent not-for-profit network in Northern California. ... The other parties in the merger are Mission Hospice and Home Care in San Mateo and Hope Hospice in Dublin.

## Palliative Care Provider News

### [Palliative medicine helps stage IV melanoma survivor reclaim her life after treatment](#)

*Atrium Health; 1/1/24*

After a stage IV malignant melanoma diagnosis, brain surgery, radiation therapy and immunotherapy, Kate Crawford, 45, has reclaimed her quality of life thanks to palliative medicine at Atrium Health Levine Cancer. ... While she has a vibrant, positive energy, the cancer treatments and disease itself led to numerous side effects and symptoms that drastically affected her quality of life. But thanks to palliative medicine at Levine Cancer, Kate says she feels more clear than she has in years. And her family says: "Kate is back."



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## Clinical News

### [Is healthcare ready to embrace more young nurses?](#)

*Becker's Clinical Leadership, by Erica Carbajal; 12/31/23*

In conversations about the nursing shortage, healthcare leaders often underscore the importance of building a pipeline by stirring interest among younger generations, and getting in front of high schoolers and middle schoolers. But is the industry fully ready to embrace more young nurses? ... Generally speaking, anyone under the age of 18 would not be able to secure full-time employment as a hospital nurse, but in the coming years,

healthcare organizations could see a rise in the number of nurse applicants who've earned their degrees in their late teens or early 20s, particularly as they ramp up efforts to market the profession to especially young populations.

### **[A Birmingham mother draws on personal tragedy to assist grieving families](#)**

*Alabama Reflection, by Ralph Chapoco; 1/2/24*

Ella Shakeel has been volunteering with Faith in Action Alabama for five years. In that time, she worked exclusively with victims of violent crime as they came to terms with not only the tragedy of losing a loved one, but also with dealing with the logistics of laying them to rest. The source of her empathy stems from the tragedy that she herself has endured.

### **[Seniors are embracing marijuana, which offers relief — and risk](#)**

*The Washington Post, by Fenit Nirappil; 1/2/24*

... Seniors are increasingly embracing cannabis, often for relief from aches and insomnia that come with age. According to a 2022 federal survey, 8 percent of people 65 and older reported having used marijuana in the past year. The rate has roughly doubled in seven years, according to estimates. While many experts agree that marijuana has therapeutic value, they also caution that older adults should consider potential downsides, such as marijuana interfering with other medication or exacerbating chronic conditions. High-potency products that are far stronger than what older people smoked in their youth can cause nasty surprises with unknown long-term effects.



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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### **[A medication mistake cost a Lockport woman her life. A new grant aims to help others avoid same fate](#)**

*The Buffalo News, by Scott Scanlon; 1/2/24*

In a perfect health care system, patients who ended up in the hospital would start to feel better soon and go home with a recovery plan, along with any medications designed to help in that process. ... "All medications have side effects, and some are especially harmful in older adults," UB officials said in announcing a four-year, \$1.95 million grant focused on improving medication prescribing. ... The UB schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Engineering and Nursing comprise the team, which looks toward holistic approaches to understand

patient experiences with unsafe medication use – and how best to equip patients and health care providers to intervene and prevent it.

## Regulatory News

### [The future of claims management: How payers can maximize payment integrity](#)

*Becker's Payer Issues; 12/29/23*

7 to 10 cents of every dollar spent on healthcare goes toward paying for fraudulent claims. Learn the latest strategies for boosting payment integrity [here](#).

## Post-Acute Care News

### [Continuum of Care](#)

*Tallahassee Magazine, by Steve Bornhoft; 12/31/23*

Leaders seek seamless approach to services. In the United States, health services are delivered based on what Mark O'Bryant sees as a "reverse model." Some might even call it a perverse model.

"You get paid for treating people when they are sick," said O'Bryant, the president and CEO at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Inc., the parent corporation of Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. "And, you get paid more when they're sicker. You make your biggest dollars when you have your sickest patients. There is very little incentive to keep people well because you don't get paid for it."

That is to say, too, O'Bryant stressed, that the model is episodic in nature. A person develops a health issue and engages a health care provider who treats the patient and charges fees for services.

### ['Profound' financial, workforce challenges persist for senior living providers as 2024 begins](#)

*McKnights Senior Living, by Lois Bowers; 1/2/24*

Senior living operators will continue to face inflationary pressures and capital market challenges in 2024, but some effects may lessen before the year is out, according to industry experts.

### [We're college students with ideas of how to promote senior living careers to a younger generation](#)

*McKnights Senior Living, by Lily Kiffmeyer and Riley Tagatz; 1/2/24*

... Our journey into senior living ... We are two college students, both of us currently working at the [Vision Centre](#): Leadership Development for Aging Services initiative, a group that encourages others to enter the field of senior living and care administration. [Lily and Riley describe a ways to get more students interested in the feild of senior living leadership, such as these.]

1. Offer and advertise paid field experiences/internships.
2. Share positive stories on social media, the web and in earned media outlets.
3. Partner with high schools to offer volunteer hours and paid opportunities.

## Technology / Innovations News

### [Mass General Brigham's generative AI plans for '24](#)

*Becker's Health IT, by Bruce Giles; 1/2/24*

Mass General Brigham plans to use generative artificial intelligence to compare patients to ones with similar profiles to help with their treatment, *The Wall Street Journal* reported. The health system also intends to release its first AI-powered diagnostic products as part of its new commercial AI office in the first half of 2024, according to the Dec. 29 story. ... With advancements in large language models, algorithms that scan medical images for insights used to take millions of dollars and several years to create, he told the news outlet. Now they can be built in a matter of months.

### [Biased AI models in healthcare may lead caregivers and clinicians astray, new study warns](#)

*McKnights' Tech Daily News, by Aaron Dorman; 1/2/24*

Over the past year, studies have highlighted how artificial intelligence models in healthcare sometimes can increase bias. Now, a new study warns that clinicians could follow AI down the wrong path. When reviewing data for respiratory failure, a common problem for older adults, clinicians were 11% less accurate in their diagnoses when using a biased AI model than if they didn't use AI at all, the [study found](#). Disturbingly, this fact was true even when given explanations about how the AI came to a diagnostic conclusion.

## General News

### [South Carolina NASCAR legend Cale Yarborough has died](#)

*Post and Courier, by Chris Day; 12/13/23*

South Carolina racing legend Cale Yarborough died the morning of Dec. 31 at McLeod Hospice House in Florence. The Timmonsville native is closely linked to historic Darlington Raceway where he made his big-league debut. . . Yarborough was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2012 as part of the stock-car shrine's third class of inductees. NASCAR Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Jim France called Yarborough one of the toughest competitors ever to compete in NASCAR.

### [Hospice patient enjoys fishing adventure](#)

*Hickory Daily Record; 12/30/23*

Carolina Caring's compassionate hospice and palliative care empowers patients to make the most of each day as they navigate serious illness. One patient, Barbara, has been under hospice care with Carolina Caring and has shared ... with her nurse, Kelly Avery, and social worker, Megan Elmore ... that her fondest memories were of fishing with her family on

Lake Hickory. After being diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and chronic heart failure, Barbara's symptoms were getting increasingly harder to manage. She went from fishing once a week to once a month, to not having fished in over two years. ... Thanks to multiple visits a week from her Carolina Caring care team, Barbara was able to build the confidence to once again cast her line and enjoy the great outdoors. ... Kelly and Megan coordinated with the Carolina Caring Volunteer and Foundation Departments to secure fishing licenses and gather together a spread of Barbara's favorite foods at Dallas Park & Recreation ponds. For just the second time in the past year, Barbara left the house.

### [Man 'accidentally' fires gun in Iowa hospital: police](#)

*Becker's Clinical Leadership, by Mackenzie Bean (Twitter); 1/2/24*

Police are investigating an incident in which a gun was discharged at MercyOne Waterloo (Iowa) Medical Center Dec. 29, according to NBC affiliate *WHO 13 News*. Authorities found damage from a single gunshot in a restroom after responding to a report of a gun being fired at the hospital around 9:40 a.m. CST. No injuries were reported.

### [West Monroe's 3 healthcare outlooks for 2024: AI, cost pressures, dealmaking](#)

*MedCityNews, by Marissa Plescia; 12/29/23*

In a recent [report](#), consulting firm West Monroe laid out three trends for the healthcare industry to watch out for:

- Data strategy, advanced analytics and AI
- Battling cost pressures
- Changing dealmaking landscape

### [How dog saved from euthanasia sparked movement to help terminally ill pet](#)

*Newsweek, by Alice Gibbs; 1/1/24*

A very special dog who was saved from euthanasia has sparked a heartwarming movement to help terminally ill pets. Opie, a 9-year-old terrier with cancer, was facing imminent euthanasia due to the weather, a harsh Texas winter. Austin Pets Alive! (APA) was called. ... The situation opened the eyes of staff at Austin Pets Alive to the need for specialized care for dogs with terminal illnesses. Opie's original foster, supported by a dedicated team of volunteers, established the shelter's "fospice" program—offering end-of-life care to animals in similar situations.

## Today's 10-Second Question

### [What is your greatest hope for the new year? \(per a Wall Street Journal email\)](#)

Answers shared tomorrow!

## Today's Encouragement

**“What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year.” Vern McLellan**



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