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Headlines

[CDC map shows dramatic increase in illness nationwide: See where it's worst](#)

Nexstar Media Wire News / The Hill, by Alix Martichoux; 1/5/24

What a difference a week can make. New data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Friday shows an 18% jump in people testing positive for influenza last week. The number of people going to the doctor with symptoms of respiratory illness — whether it be the flu, COVID, RSV, or none of the above — also continues to trend upward. Now, according to the CDC, 21 states and New York City are experiencing “very high” levels of sickness.

Hospice Provider News

[Hospice care advocate aims to increase awareness, reduce stigma surrounding industry](#)

McKnight's Home Care, by Foster Stubbs; 1/8/24

“I think we all know that the population over age 65 in the United States is growing at a rapid pace,” [Ruth] Thomson, DO and chief medical officer of Four Seasons, a nonprofit hospice and palliative care provider serving 13 western North Carolina counties, told *McKnight's Home Care Daily Pulse*. ... However, Thomson understands that the scrutiny hospice care can receive may drive families away from considering it as an option. She has used her position on the public policy committee at the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine to help create effective vetting and regulatory procedures for the hospice industry. She believes more thorough regulation will ensure fewer bad actors.

[Local experts say number of people using hospices has decreased despite benefits](#)

Virginia News, by Emaryi Williams; 1/8/24

According to a recent [report](#) by American Health Rankings, Virginia placed 30th nationally in deceased medicare patients who used hospice care, even though it was 17th nationally for senior health care. Local experts say they are seeing fewer opting for hospice care and are concerned about what it means for members of our community and their families who may need it.



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[Grief counselling market size to grow USD 4.52 billion by 2029 at a CAGR of 7.8% | Valuates Reports](#)

PR Newswire, 1/8/24

The Global Grief Counselling Market size is projected to grow from USD 2.73 Billion in 2022 to USD 4.52 Billion by 2029, at a CAGR of 7.8% during the forecast period. ... A number of variables, mostly related to the growing acceptability of mental health issues in general and grief-related mental health issues in particular, are driving the expansion of the grief counseling industry. There is an increasing need for specialist counseling services to handle the emotional difficulties of loss as knowledge grows and stigma decreases.

[The importance of emotional support services in mental health](#)

Yonkers Times, 1/8/24

... ROLE IN HOSPICE CARE: In hospice settings, emotional support is crucial for helping both patients and their families manage the complex emotions associated with terminal illness. This support includes providing a safe space for expressing feelings like fear, grief, and anxiety and offering coping strategies. It aims to ease the emotional burden and improve the quality of life ..., recognizing the profound impact that a terminal diagnosis can have on both patients and their loved ones.

[Hudson Valley Hospice opens new inpatient center](#)

Hospice News, by Holly Vossel; 1/4/24

New York-based Hudson Valley Hospice has opened a new inpatient facility that will serve two counties in its home state.



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[Lamar Hospice receives large donations](#)

The Prowers Journal, by Russ Baldwin; 1/8/24

The Lamar Area Hospice Association was recently the beneficiary of two large and generous donations, totaling \$66,000; presented to them by the Lamar Hospice Fundraising Committee.

Palliative Care Provider News

[Provider partnerships providing driving palliative care growth](#)

Hospice News, by Holly Vossel; 1/8/24

An increasingly diverse base of health care providers have taken an interest in the palliative

care space, a trend that could be indicative of how strategic growth is taking shape in the field. ... More home health care, health systems, hospices and primary care providers have gained a foothold in the palliative care space, often through community-based collaborations.

Public Policy News

[Well-being of older adults, workforce prioritized in executive order](#)

McKnights Senior Living, by Kimberly Bonvissuto; 1/8/24

The well-being of older adults and members of the direct care workforce has become a top priority in Maryland with the recent signing of an [executive order](#) meant to address challenges related to the state's aging population. Senior living industry representatives say the effort has "tremendous" potential for operators in the state.



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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Post-Acute Care News

[Assisted living scrutiny by lay media continues into new year](#)

McKnights Senior Living, by Kimberly Bonvissuto; 1/8/24

It's been a rough few months for the assisted living sector as lay media reports put a spotlight on the varying — or a lack of — regulations covering operators, a situation they said has led to tragic outcomes for some residents. Georgia assisted living operators are the latest to come under scrutiny. ... Industry advocates say that it is unfair to paint all providers with one brush, but they acknowledge that the attention is a reminder that "good policies and procedures, routine staff training, and oversight to ensure staff are following the policies are vital for providing great care."

Technology / Innovations News

[7 health tech predictions for 2024](#)

McKnights Home Care, by Patrick Tarnowski; 1/4/24

... Here are a few trends that will drive health tech's focus on clinician support in 2024:

- Enhanced user-friendly digital healthcare

- Multiproblem solutions
- AI integration
- Healthcare starts at home
- Increased investment in proactive care
- Aging population focus
- Diversification of revenue streams

General News

[How to ensure your passwords don't die with you](#)

CyberGuy Report, by Kurt Knutsson; 1/7/24

As technology becomes more integrated into our lives, we need to consider how it affects our legacy and our loved ones. There are some uncomfortable but necessary end-of-life conversations we should all have with our loved ones, but passwords usually aren't one of them. Yet with so much of our professional, personal and financial life online, it is more important now to include how to handle your digital life in those conversations.

Today's Encouragement

[Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection. Mark Twain](#)

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