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Headlines

Pediatric oncology hospice: A comprehensive review

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care, by Ali Tafazoli and Katharine Cronin-Wood; 1/15/24.

Our systematic approach led to development of a well-organized structure introducing the foundational elements, highlighting complications, and uncovering hidden gaps in this critical area. This structured framework comprises nine major categories including general ideology, population specifications, role of parents and family, psychosocial issues, financial complications, service locations, involved specialties, regulations, and quality improvement. This platform can serve as a valuable resource in establishing a scientifically reliable foundation for future experiments and practices in pediatric oncology hospice.

Hospice Provider News

Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce to celebrate regional business excellence

Santa Barbara Independent; 1/11/24

Community Business of the Year – VNA Health. As the only certified nonprofit home healthcare and hospice agency in the region, VNA Health has been caring for the Santa Barbara community with a deep sense of dedication and excellence. Their services, ranging from skilled nursing and rehabilitation therapies to hospice and palliative care, have been pivotal in enhancing the quality of life for countless individuals and families.

Mount Carmel Health System and Anthem announce multi-year contract with enhanced value-based health care and improved data connectivity

Press release; 1/11/24

COLUMBUS, OHIO — January 11, 2024 — Mount Carmel Health System and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield announced today a new, multi-year provider network agreement. The agreement secures long-term access to affordable health care for Mount Carmel patients covered by Anthem Medicare, Medicaid, and employer-sponsored health plans. As part of the agreement, the two organizations will accelerate their collaboration on several innovative initiatives, including advance data connectivity and value-based care (VBC) models designed to improve health outcomes and better control costs for care for Mount Carmel patients covered by Anthem health plans.

Notable mentions: Lorraine Lutton, Mount Carmel President & CEO.



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Palliative Care Provider News

Study of palliative care demonstrates scalable strategy to increase support for seriously ill patients in hospital

Medical Xpress, by Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania; 1/16/24

By changing the process for ordering [palliative care consultation](#) from doctors opting in and actively placing an order to having the opportunity to opt out and cancel an automatic order, the investigators increased palliative care consultation rates from 16.6% to 43.9% and decreased the time to consultation by 1.2 days in the largest-ever study of inpatient palliative care, published in JAMA.

Palliative telecare improves quality of life for those with chronic illnesses, and results last for months: Study

Medical Xpress, by CU Anschutz Medical Campus; 1/16/24

Researchers from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus have

found that a team intervention, provided by phone, leads to persistent improvements in depression, anxiety, and quality of life for people managing chronic illnesses. Additionally, researchers found that the improvement in quality of life results last months after intervention concludes.

Clinical News

Hospital study on AI identifies undiagnosed dementia patients coming from LTC

McKnights Senior Living, by Aaron Dorman; 1/16/24

A high number of senior living and care residents have dementia on admission, or develop it during their stay, despite never receiving a formal diagnosis. When these “secret” dementia patients, however, have an emergency – say, a fall – and are hospitalized, they can catch the new care team unaware and struggling to make appropriate clinical decisions. To avoid this pitfall, new research is looking at electronic health records to flag individuals who might have dementia, possibly un diagnosed, so that when they arrive at a hospital, the care team is ready.



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Mergers & Aquisition News

Report adds to scrutiny of private equity-owned hospitals

Modern Healthcare, by Mari Devereaux; 1/16/24

Lifepoint Health and ScionHealth's ownership by Apollo Global Management is the focus of a report by a nonprofit formed to hold private equity buyers accountable for the impact their acquisitions have on services and communities.

Technology / Innovations News

Microsoft seeking chief medical officer

Becker's Health IT, by Naomi Diaz; 1/16/24

Publisher note: No article here, but the idea of MS seeking a CMO is intriguing...

General News

The 100 club: U.S. centenarians are set to quadruple by 2054

chartr, by U.S. Census Bureau; 1/12/24

... As life expectancies increase and birth rates decline, the US is anticipated to trend older in the coming decades, with the median age already reaching a record high of 38.9 in 2022. Zooming out, the global population is generally aging at a much faster pace too. Indeed, in 2020, the number of people aged 60+ outnumbered under-5s, and there are an estimated 772k centenarians the world over at present.



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Moving beyond death anxiety to reflections on mortality

Psychology Today, by Shoba Sreenivasan and Linda E. Weinberger, reviewed by Lybi Ma; 1/15/24

For the healthy, it may be considered macabre to contemplate their mortality; it may seem fatalistic, negative, and something that pulls one away from the present joy of living today. Yet, it can also remind us of the inevitable and consider how we want to spend today as well as whatever time we have left.

NAVC announces Pet Peace of Mind as the 2024 NAVC Gives Marquee Award recipient

PR Newswire, news provided by North American Veterinary Community; 1/16/24

Pet Peace of Mind is a national nonprofit that enables people in hospice to keep their pets with them throughout the end-of-life journey and helps find new homes for pets after a loved one passes.

Editor's Note: Explore how to [join over 250 hospices](#), healthcare agencies, and hospitals providing pet care assistance for their patients.

Man with cancer once wanted assisted suicide, but was glad he chose natural death instead

Live Action, by Cassy Fiano-Chesser; 1/15/24

"In our last moments, when he was awake, I sat on his bed and sang to him--Joni Mitchell's *Both Sides Now*." ... Tears ran down both our faces ... His last words to me were that the past few months had been the best of his life, and he didn't want to leave us. ... Then he closed his eyes and slept for three peaceful days before he left us for good."

Rural nursing homes' livelihood may depend on non-existent staff

McKnights Long-Term Care News, by Kimberly Marselas; 1/15/24

... Rural skilled nursing providers have been among the most deeply affected by pandemic-era losses, a fact acknowledged by a provision in the mandate that gives them two extra years to hire needed staff. ... Mark Parkinson, president and CEO of the American Health Care Association, has called staffing "the metric that will matter most" for rural healthcare over the next five to 10 years.

Former director of two non-profits sentenced for stealing from organizations

WABI News Desk (tv); 1/12/24

The former director of two Skowhegan (ME) non-profits has been sentenced for stealing \$200,000 from the organizations, according to the Morning Sentinel. Gayne pleaded guilty to theft charge. ... Gayne was the executive director of the chamber from 2016 to 2022 and director of Hospice Volunteers from 2014 to 2022.

Books

What we're reading - The Digital Mindset: What it really takes to thrive in the age of data, algorithms, and AI

By Paul Leonardi and Tsedal Neeley, 2022.

The digital revolution is here, changing how work gets done, how industries are structured, and how people from all walks of life work, behave, and relate to each other. To thrive in a world driven by data and powered by algorithms, we must learn to see, think, and act in new ways. We need to develop a *digital mindset*.

International News

Longfield Hospice collects more than 3,000 Christmas trees

BBC News, West of England, by Rhiannon Yhnell; 1/15/24

For a voluntary donation, people around Gloucestershire have had their trees taken away by volunteers from Longfield Community Hospice in Minchinhampton. Every year trees are taken to recycling sites where they are turned into a multi-purpose mulch. So far more than 3,000 trees have been collected in four days. ... [The amount of money is] a bit of secret at the moment but we've raised more [than last year's] just under £50,000 ... for hospice care. [Approximately \$63,000 in US dollars]

Today's Encouragement

"We can't operate at a higher level without consistency." From *The Bear*, by *Carmy*, season 1, episode 2

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