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Contents

- [1. Study shows 'alarming' sharp increase of colon cancer in younger Americans](#)
- [2. Survey shows 2024 to be a "Year of Efficiency" for Care at Home Organizations](#)
- [3. Mother Cabrini Health Foundation awards \\$172 million in grants to advance health equity across New York state](#)
- [4. Local non-profit organizations receive over \\$424,000 in grant funding from Dignity Health](#)
- [5. Social determinants of health play 'an important role' in end-of-life pain strategies](#)
- [6. Coming to terms: Female veterans' experience of serious illness](#)
- [7. MV residents serve on MLK Day of Giving](#)
- [8. Recognition program honors vets](#)
- [9. Hollywood's portrayal of cancer in movies fuels misconceptions, new study finds](#)
- [10. MedPAC approves hospital, physician pay bump; Doubles down on post-acute cuts](#)
- [11. OIG report has clues for 2024 healthcare fraud enforcement](#)
- [12. Acute hospital care at home data release fact sheet](#)

13. [Scrutinize private equity's involvement in health care: Higher prices, worse outcomes don't serve patients or providers](#)
14. [America's health system isn't ready for the surge of seniors with disabilities](#)
15. [Nationwide PACE program helps seniors avoid nursing homes](#)
16. [Increasing longevity, decreasing health quality: A close look at American health trends](#)
17. [Home-based leaders are focusing on culture, creative benefits to mitigate staffing challenges](#)
18. [Maxwell Healthcare Associates and KATANA Safety announce partnership to help protect home health workers](#)
19. [Graham Healthcare Group receives top workplaces for 2023](#)
20. [Today's Encouragement: In the depth of winter ...](#)

Headlines

[Study shows 'alarming' sharp increase of colon cancer in younger Americans](#)

The National Desk, by Jamel Valencia; 1/17/24

Colorectal cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in men and the second in women under the age of 50, according to the American Cancer Society's annual report on cancer facts and trends. It indicated that colon cancer moved up from being the fourth leading cause of cancer death in both younger men and women two decades ago to first in men and second in women. Breast cancer leads in women under 50 with 2,251 deaths in 2021.

[Survey shows 2024 to be a "Year of Efficiency" for Care at Home Organizations](#)

HomeCare News; 1/16/24

To improve their bottom line and operations, care-at-home organizations plan to focus on shoring up operational processes and how they manage staffing and scheduling, according to the just-released 2024 Industry Trends Report. ... The focus on having more efficient operations was reflected in the top concerns from respondents: staffing, and addressing the changing payment dynamics and new regulations and oversight in the care at-home industry.

Hospice Provider News

Mother Cabrini Health Foundation awards \$172 million in grants to advance health equity across New York state

PR Newswire; 1/17/24

The Mother Cabrini Health Foundation today announced it has awarded 514 grants totaling \$172 million to support nonprofit organizations addressing community health needs and disparities in health outcomes across New York State in 2024. ... Funded programs include: Calvary Hospital's training program to expand palliative care, hospice care, and end of life care in the Bronx.



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Local non-profit organizations receive over \$424,000 in grant funding from Dignity Health

KEYT3, by Dave Alley; 1/16/24

Dignity Health Central Coast handed out \$424,496 in grant funding to nine community non-profit partnerships in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. ... Grief Awareness Treatment and Education Project (GRATE): The Community Counseling Center, Hospice of SLO County, and the Alzheimer's Association of the Central Coast are partnering to address grief related behavioral health needs in our community (GRATE: Grief Awareness Treatment Education.)

Social determinants of health play 'an important role' in end-of-life pain strategies

Healio, by Jennifer Byrne and Timothy M. Pawlik; 1/16/24

Patients with gastrointestinal cancers face ongoing racial/ethnicity-based disparities in end-of-life pain management, specifically in terms of access to and utilization of opioids, study results showed.

Clinical News

Coming to terms: Female veterans' experience of serious illness

Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing, by Brandon M. Varilek and Mary J. Isaacson; 1/16/24

Female veteran populations are growing internationally and are more likely than men to develop certain serious illnesses, including some cancers. ... This study reports the qualitative findings from a multimethod study using qualitative inquiry to explore female veterans' experiences of living with a serious illness.



Accelerate Impact
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MV residents serve on MLK Day of Giving

Mega Valleys Progress, by Vernon Robison; 1/16/24

A group of volunteers work together to tie the fringes of fleece blankets to be given to local hospice patients in the community during the MLK Day of Giving event.

Recognition program honors vets

COEUR d'ALENE / Post Fall; 1/17/24

The Coeur d'Alene Elks, in conjunction with Pappy Boyington Marine Corps League 966, recently donated \$5,000 to the Veteran Recognition Program, run by Hospice of North Idaho. During the recognition ceremony, the veteran is presented with a plaque, a pin and certificate of appreciation for service to our country.

Hollywood's portrayal of cancer in movies fuels misconceptions, new study finds

PR Newswire; 1/17/24

... Researchers reviewed more than 100 films released between 2010-2020 and found several key findings about films' lasting impact on public perception of cancer treatment, prevention and care options. Key findings from the study include:

- With great power comes great responsibility.
- Inaccuracies about survivorship.
- Portrayl of treatment options.
- Palliative care and hospice - common treatment, uncommon in movies.
- Financial toxicity.



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Regulatory News

MedPAC approves hospital, physician pay bump; Doubles down on post-acute cuts

InsideHealth Policy, by Bridget Early; 1/12/24

Congress' Medicare pay advisors recommended pay raises in 2025 for hospitals and physicians along with extra so-called Medicare safety-net pay and voted Thursday ... to recommend a second year's worth of post-acute pay cuts as it approved proposals that would lower base pay rates for skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies and inpatient rehabilitation facilities.

Access requires a subscription: paid or 30 day free trial.

OIG report has clues for 2024 healthcare fraud enforcement

LAW360, by Mackenzie Wortley, Elizabeth Nevins and Megan Miller; 1/16/24

In late 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Justice released the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program Annual Report for fiscal year 2022, highlighting continued enforcement and recovery actions under the program.

Acute hospital care at home data release fact sheet

CMS.gov, Newsroom; 1/16/24

A public release of the data submitted to CMS as part of the Acute Hospital Care at Home initiative will be available beginning on January 16, 2024. CMS plans to release data through the Research and Data Assistance Center (ResDAC), collected from November 27, 2020, through March 30, 2023.

Mergers & Aquisition News

Scrutinize private equity's involvement in health care: Higher prices, worse outcomes don't serve patients or providers

The Boston Globe, by The Editorial Board; updated 1/17/24

... Private equity is not necessarily a bad form of ownership. It is often used to make companies more efficient. But it creates pressure to obtain short-term returns, and the strategies that pull profits from health care companies may not serve patients.

Post-Acute Care News

America's health system isn't ready for the surge of seniors with disabilities

California Healthline, by Judith Graham; 1/17/24

The number of older adults with disabilities — difficulty with walking, seeing, hearing, memory, cognition, or performing daily tasks such as bathing or using the bathroom — will soar in the decades ahead, as baby boomers enter their 70s, 80s, and 90s.

Nationwide PACE program helps seniors avoid nursing homes

The Lake County Star, by Cathie Crew; 1/17/24

The Program for All Inclusive Care of the Elderly, or PACE, provides care and services to nursing home-eligible seniors and disabled individuals, enabling them to remain in their home far longer than they might otherwise be able to do.

Increasing longevity, decreasing health quality: A close look at American health trends

BNN, by Ayesha Mumtaz; 1/16/24

Recent data paints a concerning picture of Americans' health despite an increase

in longevity. While people are living longer, the quality of their health during these extended years is deteriorating.

General News

Home-based leaders are focusing on culture, creative benefits to mitigate staffing challenges

Home Healthcare News, by Joyce Famakinwa; 1/16/24

One of Accurate Home Care's biggest strategies for combating the nursing shortage is positioning the company as the employer of choice and focusing on culture. ... "We have to focus heavily on culture, and we have to focus heavily on purpose, and try to attract those who have a heart for home care, and the money is secondary to them," [Bill] English said [president and CEO of Accurate Home Care]. "Those are the nurses that we went after. Today, we were voted as one of the top 200 workplaces in Minnesota by the Star Tribune."

Maxwell Healthcare Associates and KATANA Safety announce partnership to help protect home health workers

PR Newswire; 1/17/24

Maxwell Healthcare Associates (MHA) – the home health industry's leading post-acute consulting firm, and KATANA Safety (KATANA) – the premier provider of lone and workforce safety solutions, have announced a new strategic partnership to help create a safer work environment for home-based workers.

Graham Healthcare Group receives top workplaces for 2023

The LaGrange Daily News, PR Newswire; 1/16/24

Graham Healthcare Group, a subsidiary of Graham Holdings Company (GHC) ... is proud to receive the 2023 Top Workplaces designation in five of its most established markets. ...

- Residential Home Health and Hospice, Northern Illinois, for the 5th year
- Mary Free Bed at Home, for the 3rd consecutive year
- Residential Home Health and Hospice, Troy, Michigan, for the 13th consecutive year
- Residential Home Health and Hospice, Lapeer Michigan, for the 6th consecutive year
- AHN Healthcare@Home, for the 2nd year in a row.

Today's Encouragement

In the depth of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer. - Albert Camus

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