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Headlines

15 most common reasons CMS cited a hospital in 2023

Becker's Clinical Leadership, by Paige Twenter; 1/17/24

Accreditation organizations, including The Joint Commission and DNV Healthcare, completed nearly 4,000 surveys in 2023. [Click on the article for a list of the top 15 citations.]

Hospice Provider News

What's the diagnosis of the problem for our hospice and palliative care movement

Teleios Podcast, by Chris Comeaux and Ira Byock, MD; 1/17/24

Dr. Ira Byock discusses the current state of the hospice industry and the need for major reforms. He emphasizes the importance of acknowledging leaders' responsibility for the crisis in hospice care and apologizing for failures. Then, the conversation moves toward solutions.

Grief care's 2024 outlook in hospice

Hospice News, by Holly Vossel; 1/11/24

Finding the right balance of support and career development for bereavement care professionals is key to recruitment and retention as hospices combat labor strains. ... The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires hospices to offer bereavement care for a minimum of 13 months following a patient's death. Many providers extend this care to communities across their service regions, regardless of whether the deceased was a patient.



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Palliative Care Provider News

Top ten tips palliative care clinicians should know about providing care for people with disabilities

J Palliat Med, by Dorothy W Tolchin, Claire Rushin, Ben Tolchin, Chloe Slocum, Jordana L Meyerson, Susan M Havercamp, Tamra Keeney, Andrea W Schwartz, Kristen Schaefer, Melissa Ross, Michael A Stein, Christopher A Jones, William E Rosa, Forrest A Brooks; 1/17/24

Palliative care (PC) clinicians are well poised to help people with disabilities (PWD) live well in the context of serious illness. PC prioritizes person-centered care with a focus on function, autonomy, and quality of life. This approach aligns with principles of high-quality care for PWD.

Full access requires subscription&nb sp;

Editor's Note: See our 1/18/24 post, "America's health system isn't ready for the surge of seniors with disabilities"

Role matters in understanding 'quality' in palliative care: a qualitative analysis of patient, caregiver and practitioner perspectives

BMJ Open, by Laura M Holdsworth, Karleen Giannitrapani, Razielle C Gamboa, Claire O'Hanlon, Nainwant Singh, Anne Walling, Charlotta Lindvall, Karl Lorenz; 1/17/24

Objectives: To compare the discussions from two panels on the concept of

palliative care quality for patients with advanced cancer, exploring the priorities reflected in each group's perspectives.

Avow receives \$35,000 grant for non-hospice palliative care in Collier County

Life in Naples; 1/15/24

Avow is humbled by the support of The Stranahan Foundation's investment of \$35,000 to ensure the uninterrupted care of hundreds of patients with serious illness in Southwest Florida.



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Substance use disorder in aging and serious illness

GeriPal podcast with Eric Widera, Alex Smith, Katie Fitzgerald Jones, Jessica Merlin, Devon Check; 1/18/24

The CDC's Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain excludes those undergoing cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of-life care. In doing so, it seems to give the impression that pain seen in cancer is inherently different than pain seen in other conditions and that those with cancer may not have the same risk for opioid use disorder as compared to other conditions.

Clinical News

Does morphine speed up death at the end of life? What we know

HealthDigest, by Jennifer Anandanayagam; 1/17/24

... [Hospice care workers often hear a common concern], if giving morphine to your dying loved actually brings about their death sooner.

Quotes from Elisabeth Smith, Hospice of the Chesapeake's Director of Education and Emergency Management

St. Jude Home Care is first U.S. pediatric home health agency to earn new category of industry certification

Press release; 1/18/24

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Home Care LLC earns dual certification in pediatrics and home health from Community Health Accreditation Partners (CHAP), an independent, non-profit, accrediting body for home and community-based healthcare organizations. St. Jude Home Care LLC is the nation's first agency to achieve that distinction. CHAP is the only organization in the U.S. that grants a discrete pediatric certification to home health agencies.



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Interventions performed in children with immunocompromised conditions in the pediatric intensive care unit within 48 hours of death

J Palliat Med, by Anna Kegel, Jason Espinoza, April Rahrig, Tina Schade-Wills, Courtney M Rowan; 1/17/24

Conclusions: Children in the PICU with underlying immunocompromised conditions frequently receive interventions within the 48-hour period preceding death. Palliative care involvement was associated with fewer radiographic studies and fewer occurrences of CPR. The impact of interventions on the dying experience warrants further investigation.

Pediatric care for non-white children is worse across US: Researchers urge policy reform to address disparities

Medical Xpress, by Lancet; 1/17/24

... Disparities also exist in end-of-life care, the study found. Black, Hispanic, and Asian American children who receive [palliative care](#) are more likely to die in the

hospital compared to white children. Hispanic children are also more likely to receive medically-intense care during their last days of life.

Penn Medicine provides parents tools to grieve and heal after loss

Penn Medicine News, by Kim Maialetti; 1/11/24

Perinatal loss is not uncommon in the United States. According to the Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance, 30 percent of all pregnancies end in miscarriage and 21,000 babies are stillborn each year. Additionally, more than three of every 1,000 babies born die before 28 days of life and more than five of every 1,000 die before their first birthday.

Regulatory News

Congressional advisors grapple with Medicare Advantage data that reveals plenty on excess, but not much on access

McKnight's Long-Term Care News, by Kimberly Marselas; 1/16/24

Medicare Advantage risk scores continue to rise, inflating payments to the private plans that far exceed their actual costs, staff for a Congressional advisory commission warned members Friday. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services uses risk scores, based on patient demographics and their needs, to establish payments to plans during each bid season.

Owner of defunct Skyline chain pleads guilty in \$39M fraud case

McKnight's Long-Term Care News, by Kimberly Marselas; 1/18/24

Joseph Schwartz, former owner of Skyline Management and a 90-plus nursing home empire whose collapse sent patients and workers scrambling in 2018, pleaded guilty Wednesday to his role in a \$39 million fraud scheme.

Post-Acute Care News

US Senate launches investigation of assisted living after lay media reports about safety, staffing, pricing

McKnight's Senior Living, by Kimberly Bonvissuto; 1/17/24

The US Senate Special Committee on Aging is launching a review of the assisted living industry following recent articles in the Washington Post, which reported on the deaths of residents who wandered from communities, as well as the New York Times and KFF, which scrutinized an industry pricing structure that adds

fees on top of basic charges to cover additional services, as well as rate increases and the for-profit status of most providers.

Technology / Innovations News

Predictive analytics in action: How machine learning is driving successful outcomes for value-based end of life programs

Senior Housing News, by Sophie Knoelke; 1/17/24

Based on a discussion with Jordan Holland at Compassus and Mark Bailes of VNS Health

Holland: "We are using predictive analytics to identify patients that are in that end-of-life stage, and then intervening on those patients earlier through a palliative-centric model. We take a full view of an individual's health across the continuum. Then, we identify what the right clinical model is for their individual situation -the technologies, the analytics to help successfully deploy that model."

General News

16 sustainable health care design examples

gb&d / Health Care, by Andrew Biro; 1/17/24

WHO defines a sustainable health care facility as one that "improves, maintains, or restores health while minimizing negative impacts on the environment and leveraging opportunities to restore and improve it, to the benefit of the health and well-being of current and future generations."

Editor's Note: Does your organization plan to build any type of building? Examine these healthcare designs and guiding principles.

KKR-backed BrightSpring targets \$3 billion valuation for long-awaited US IPO

Reuters; 1/17/24

KKR-backed BrightSpring Health Services set a target of an around \$3.01 billion valuation on Wednesday for its long-awaited initial public offering in the United States. The company, which caters to patients facing complex or chronic medical conditions, is moving towards a listing after previously pursuing it in 2021.

Lions fan in hospice care dyes hair Honolulu Blue to support the team

ABC 12 News WJRT, Saginaw Townshio, MI, by Terry Camp; 1/17/24

... Larry Benjamin, 83, has entered hospice care, but this Lions season and now the playoff win has given him a lot of joy. He wants everyone to get behind the Lions, and his show of support has gone viral.

Widespread health care disparities revealed: Hardships for minority kids start at birth

USA Today, by Adrianna Rodriguez; 1/18/24

Black and Hispanic children receive universally worse medical care than their white peers, starting from the moment they're born and spanning across all specialties, according to a comprehensive five-year review. ... They found widespread racial and ethnic disparities in care, treatment and health outcomes across all pediatric specialties, including neonatology, primary care, emergency medicine, critical care, surgery, mental health, developmental disabilities, endocrinology and palliative, or end-of-life, care, ...

Other News

Traditions Health adds handful of home health veterans to leadership team

Home Health Care News, by Patrick Filbin; 1/17/24

Traditions Health has added five new names to its leadership team, many of which are home health veterans ...

- Jennifer Bash; VP of sales for the home health division
- Hannah Echols; VP of clinical applications and business intelligence
- Kimberley Boyd; VP of operations for the hospice division and oversight of Texas and Georgia
- Michael Craig; VP of sales for the hospice division and oversight of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina
- Jay Henderson; VP of sales for the hospice division and oversight of Arizona, California and Oregon

Today's Encouragement

Winter is a season of recovery and preparation. - Paul Theroux

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