Cordt Kassner

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Headlines

Sunday Newsletters

Top read stories of the last month (in order) is the focus of Sunday newsletters - enjoy!

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.

Care planning issues top lists of hospice survey deficiencies

Hospice News, by Jim Parker; 1/4/24

Amid rising regulatory scrutiny, issues related to care planning continue to top lists of the most common survey deficiencies among hospices. The most frequently cited deficiency is the requirement that each patient should have a customized care plan developed by the interdisciplinary team with involvement from a physician as well as the patient and family, the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) reported. The noncompliance rate was 66% for 2022.



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Federal scientists conclude there is credible evidence for certain medical uses of marijuana

Politico, by Natalie Fertig; 1/12/24

The Department of Health and Human Services concluded that marijuana is less harmful than other dangerous drugs and that there is some evidence of its medical benefits in recommending loosening federal restrictions on the drug. For the last 60-plus years, cannabis has been classified as a Schedule I drug — the same as heroin — under the Controlled Substances Act, which means it's a

substance of high abuse potential and no accepted medical use. Bloomberg first reported in August that HHS had recommended marijuana be moved to Schedule III, a nd the release of these documents on Friday confirms that. *Publisher note: The full FDA report can be found here.*

What is palliative care?

Money, by Bianca Rodriguez Rojas; 1/4/24

Palliative care is a healthcare approach that aims to provide comfort and improve the quality of life of people diagnosed with a serious or life-threatening disease such as cancer, heart failure or Parkinson's.

Editor's note: Interesting this appeared in Money magazine...

Provider partnerships 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. ... A range of palliative care joint ventures, care collaborations and partnerships have evolved in recent years as more health care providers work to address the needs of a swelling aging population.



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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.

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.

NY healthcare organizations collaborate to deliver value-based hospice, palliative care

TechTarget, by Victoria Bailey; 1/3/24

Bassett Healthcare Network, a New York-based health system,

has partnered with Helios Care to provide patients with value-based hospice and palliative care. ... Together, the two organizations will create an electronically driven referral process that will promote value-based contracting for hospice and palliative care services and establish a comprehensive palliative care and hospice service to treat patients in the hospital, in outpatient settings, and at home. In addition, the partnership will prioritize developing a transitional care program to provide in-home care for patients with serious illnesses, chronic diseases, and end-of-life needs.



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Today's Encouragement

Nothing can dim the light which shines from within. ~Maya Angelou

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