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Headlines

StateServ announces acquisition of Delta Care Rx

PR Newswire; 1/22/2024

StateServ, a leading provider of durable medical equipment ("DME") benefit management solutions to the post-acute care market in the United States, has completed its acquisition of Delta Care Rx ("Delta Care"), a national pharmaceutical care provider. Delta Care offers integrated pharmacy benefit management, mail order prescription, sterile/non-sterile compounding, and clinical pharmacist consulting to the hospice and palliative care markets. ... The unique combination forms a leading care-at-home data, technology, and service platform and the industry's first scaled DME and pharmacy solution.

Cancer statistics, 2024

American Cancer Society, by Rebecca L. Siegel MPH, Angela N. Giaquinto MSPH, and Ahmedin Jemal DVM, PhD; 1/17/2024

In this article, we provide the estimated numbers of new cancer cases and deaths in 2024 in the United States nationally and for each state, as well as a comprehensive overview of cancer occurrence based on up-to-date population-based data for cancer incidence and mortality through 2020 and 2021, respectively.

January 2024 MedPAC and MACPAC Data Book: Beneficiaries Dually Eligible for Medicare and Medicaid



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Hospice Provider News

Hospice investors to watch in 2024

Hospice News, by Jim Parker; 1/19/24

Though the number of hospice M&A deals plummeted in 2023 compared to prior years, deals are still being made, and the industry may see a rebound in 2024.

Race, ethnicity, and cancer type influence which patients access hospice care

Oncology Nurse Advisor, by Jennifer Larson; 1/19/24

... [A] researcher from a comprehensive cancer center in North Carolina conducted a clinical literature review to investigate research outcomes of hospice use in the United States. ... A total of 17 quantitative studies, published between 2017 and 2023, was included in this review. Notable differences by cancer type were found. ... The analysis also showed disparities in hospice use by race and ethnicity.

Clinical News

Pressing questions about rural telehealth access and investments put innovation in danger

McKnights Long-Term Care News, by Kimberly Marselas; 1/22/24

Proven healthcare technologies can help improve patient care and boost staff confidence, but in many rural areas, one major impediment remains: lack of high-speed internet.



Accelerate Impact
Accelerate Influence
Accelerate Innovation

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Cervical cancer increasing in women in their 30s and 40s, new report finds

NBC News, by Liz Szabo; 1/20/24

Among women in their 30s and early 40s, incidence has been edging upward. Diagnosis of cervical cancer among women ages 30 to 44 rose almost 2% a year from 2012 to 2019.

Regulatory News

Number of Georgians dropped from Medicaid nears 500,000

The Atlanta-Journal Constitution, by Ariel Hart; 1/22/24

Georgia has dropped at least 488,000 from Medicaid, the government health insurance for the poor, as part of a federally mandated project to ensure those covered by the program qualify to remain on it.

Public Policy News

Proposed federal law would put limits on use of \$50 billion in opioid settlements

NPR, by Aneri Pattani; 1/22/24

Some members of Congress are demanding federal oversight of billions of dollars in opioid settlements, which state and local governments began spending over the past two years — with some using it to plug budget holes rather than fight the addiction crisis. This month, Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio, and Rep. Ashley Hinson, R-Iowa, introduced legislation that would write into law approved uses for the funds so they reach people most affected by the crisis.



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Research News

The hospice patients using their final days to make a lasting difference

Manchester Evening News, by Chris Gee; 1/21/24

Patients at a Greater Manchester hospice are leaving a 'wonderful legacy' by taking part in research which could make the final days and hours of life more comfortable. Bolton Hospice ... has played an important part in the CHELsea II trial, which is assessing whether giving patients in the last days of life fluids via a drip, also known as 'clinically-assisted hydration', is effective at preventing them from developing delirium, or 'terminal agitation'.

Mergers & Aquisition News

To tackle financial distress, hospitals, health systems are turning to mergers

KFF Health News; 1/19/24

Modern Healthcare looks into the phenomenon of rising health care mergers and acquisitions being driven by financial pressures on health providers in the aftermath of the pandemic. Separately, Stateline explains how private equity-backed hospitals can see cutbacks and closures.

Technology / Innovations News

Healthcare orgs taking steps to remove racial bias from algorithm and AI tools, new report shows

McKnight's Senior Living, by Aaron Dorman; 1/22/24

... A team of doctors at the American Academy of Pediatrics is going through hundreds of algorithms and other materials to find, and remove, anything that could exacerbate racial disparities, a “herculean task,” as the *JAMA* report describes it. The potential for AI-enabled bias could be a major problem for diagnosing life-threatening conditions in seniors.

General News

Inside a \$300M push to save failing hospitals

Modern Healthcare, by Kara Hartnett; 1/19/24

When Madera Community Hospital declared bankruptcy and suddenly closed its doors a year ago, an agricultural community of 68,000 Californians lost its sole source of emergency and specialty care.

The Long Decline: Health care access grows difficult in shrinking rural communities

Alabama Reflector, by Alanda Rocha; 1/18/24

The lack of health care providers in rural Alabama is stark. Most of Alabama’s rural counties have significantly more people per primary care physician than urban counties. Butler County ... has just one primary care physician per 4,900 residents ... As rural Alabama continues a decades-long population collapse, residents who remain — many of them older people — face increasing barriers to health care, a trend seen around the nation.

Riding off with a legacy

Next Avenue, by Kate St. Vincent Vogl; 1/22/24

A story about women breaking barriers was bigger than my dying friend and me. I promised to see it through. ... And in the fall of 2019, from her hospice bed, my friend handed over her whole manuscript. ... Turned out the founder of the Women's International Motorcycle Association (WIMA) also encouraged her followers to say yes — to motorcycle riding. And the thrill of independence. [*Her dying request became a reality: Iron Horse Cowgirls - Louise Scherbyn and the Women Motorcyclists of the 1930s and 1940s.*]

Lions' Amon-Ra St. Brown sends signed jersey to fan in hospice who dyed his hair blue

NFL, by Erin Walsh; 1/20/24

Larry Benjamin, a Detroit Lions fan receiving hospice care who dyed his hair blue for the team's playoff run, received a very special gift from star wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown this weekend. St. Brown sent Benjamin, a lifelong Lions fan, an autographed jersey after hearing about his gesture of support for the team.
Editor's Note: Follow-up to the [story about Larry Benjamin](#) we posted on 1/19/24.

International News

The psychological experience of grandparents: proposal of a qualitative clinical assessment tool in pediatric palliative care

Clin Pract, by Alexandra Jóni Nogueira and Maria Teresa Ribeiro; 1/4/24

Compared to parental caregivers and healthy siblings, grandparents are underexplored in the literature and clinical practice. The aim of the present study is to propose a psychological experience assessment tool of grandparents in this context.

Acceptance of digital health technologies in palliative care patients

Palliat Med Rep; by Stefan Wicki, Ian C Clark, Manuel Amann, Sebastian M Christ, Markus Schettle, Caroline Hertler, Gudrun Theile, David Blum; 1/13/24

Results: A majority of patients indicated an interest in (69.0%) and positive attitude toward (75.9%) digital health technologies. Nearly all (93.1%) patients believe that digital health technologies will become more important in medicine in the future. Most patients would consider using their smartphone (79.3%) or wearable (69.0%) more often for their health.

Today's Encouragement

Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together. — Vesta M. Kelly

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