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Headlines

[MD Anderson's Dr. Eduardo Bruera: Educate hospice execs on palliative care's outcomes, cost savings](#)

Hospice News, by Audrie Martin; 1/22/24

Dr. Eduardo Bruera is a true pioneer in the field of palliative care. ... In this interview, Palliative Care News sits down with Bruera to discuss the landscape of palliative care and what he sees for the future of the field.

Publisher's note: If there's one article you click on, read in its entirety (2 min), and figure out how to implement in this issue - maybe in this month - perhaps this is it...

Hospice Provider News

[A guide to paying for hospice care at home](#)

MediaFeed.org, by Claire Samuels; 1/23/24

According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which sets benchmarks for hospice care costs based on the payments they make to providers, here's what two types of in-home hospice care will cost in 2024's fiscal year ... [Additional descriptions include insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, VA health care, private health insurance.]

Clinical News

Examining disparities in the management of NSCLC

Physician's Weekly; 1/23/24

[NSCLC = Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer]

At the 2023 North American Conference on Lung Cancer, held December 1-3 in Chicago, Marjory Charlot, MD, MPH, MSc, gave an opening keynote presentation addressing equities and disparities in NSCLC. Dr. Charlot has published multiple papers addressing this topic, two of which we summarize here. ...

- Effect of an antiracism intervention on racial disparities in time to lung cancer surgery
- Sociodemographic disparities in the management of advanced lung cancer: A narrative review



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Cutting hair, growing care: Stylists volunteer for hospice patients

Montrose Press, by Katharhynn Heidelberg; 1/22/24

... [Kathy] King is among several stylists who volunteer to cut hospice patients' hair — just a way, they said, of giving back by making others feel good.

... "Contributing is probably the highest gift you can give," said King. "As far as HopeWest goes, I lose the word sometimes as to what they do, and what they do for the community. I'm just so proud to (volunteer) for them."

Northwestern researchers find significant racial disparities in pediatric health care

The Daily Northwestern, by Isaiah Steinberg; 1/21/24

Despite controlling for health insurance status, researchers found vast disparities in health care quality in several pediatric specialties such as neonatal care, emergency medicine and palliative care. ... Researchers saw greatest disparity in care occurred in pain management, with non-white children less likely to be prescribed painkillers for serious medical conditions.

Hospice of the Valley launches living will campaign

Ahwatukee Foothills News, by Lin Sue Flood; 1/23/24

National research shows that only about a third of Americans have created a living will or advance healthcare directive. ... Three nonprofit organizations — Mercy Care, Hospice of the Valley and Contexture — are launching a community education campaign to ensure that Arizonans' wishes are honored. ... Choose Your Person is an awareness campaign urging all adults to choose someone to be their healthcare power of attorney.



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Inside AccentCare's new, centralized approach to bereavement care

Hospice News, by Jim Parker; 1/23/24

After five years of planning, the post-acute services provider AccentCare recently re-organized its bereavement care services, which are now coordinated from a national center.

Myotonic dystrophy type 1: palliative care guidelines

BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care, by Derek Willis, Tracey Willis, Claire Bassie, Gail Eglon, Emma-Jayne Ashley, and Chris Turner; 1/22/24

Palliative care for adults with neuromuscular conditions is an emerging field. Previous guidelines regarding myotonic dystrophy and palliative care have only mentioned end-of-life care and little else. The following guidelines have been written using national experts as a description of best practice as part of the Dystrophia Myotonica National Care Guidelines Consortium.

Requires subscription to this journal or a research library database

New research challenges the commonly held view that opioids are the most powerful pain relievers

SciTechDaily, by University of Sydney ; 1/21/24

A University of Sydney-led study challenges the prevailing view of opioids as the

most effective pain relievers for cancer, revealing significant evidence gaps and suggesting NSAIDs as a potential alternative. This research advocates for more informed choices in cancer pain management, emphasizing patient empowerment and the consideration of non-opioid options.



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The challenges facing male caregivers

Next Avenue, by Sophie Okolo; 1/23/24

When business owner Mark Horst (not his real name) of Pompton Plains, New Jersey, first found out his wife of 37 years was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, he didn't know what the journey would entail. Of all caregivers in the United States, 16 million, or 40%, are men. Of these men, 63% identified as primary caregivers.

Norwell hospice honors Weymouth nurse, 99, with a Nightingale pin. "I felt so proud!"

The Patriot Ledger, by Sue Scheible; 1/23/24

Retired nurse Betty Beecher of Weymouth, nearing 100, describes receiving a Nightingale pin from the NVNA and Hospice, where she now is a patient.

Regulatory News

Current CMS Policy Priorities and Initiatives in Quarter 4

Mondaq, by Troy Barsky and Eunice LaLanne; 1/22/24

On October 17, 2023, CMS held their quarterly National Stakeholder Call to provide updates on recent accomplishments and how their initiatives

advance CMS' Strategic Plan.

Editor's Note: [Click here for the CMS Strategic Plan](#), last modified 1/23/24

Public Policy News

Virginia legislators seek to become 12th jurisdiction to legalize medical aid in dying

Courthouse News Service, by Joe Dodson; 1/22/24

Virginia state Senator Jennifer Boysko held back tears and read a letter written by her friend U.S. Representative Jennifer Wexton, who suffers from progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), in support of medically assisted death.

Policy experts on cost, accessibility, other details in Assembly GOP medical marijuana plan

Wisconsin Examiner, by Baylor Spears; 1/22/24

The proposal by [Wisconsin] Assembly Republicans would create the Office of Medical Cannabis Regulation in the Department of Health Services. The office which would maintain a registry of patients and caregivers who could purchase medical cannabis products from one of five state-run dispensaries. Access would be limited to patients with certain medical conditions, and available products would include oils, edibles and pills but exclude anything smokeable.

Technology / Innovations News

Health systems want tech to make work 'more human'

Becker's Health IT, by Laura Dyrda; 1/23/24

Healthcare delivery needs more humanity. Over the last 15 years, clinicians have been forced behind the computer entering data into the EHR during patient visits. Increasing patient volume and workforce shortages make it a challenge to deliver high-touch patient care without burning out clinical staff.

Netsmart, NorthStar and Hospice of Michigan unite to advance innovative technology and establish industry standards for post-acute care

Business Wire; 1/23/24

Netsmart, a leading healthcare technology provider, has announced a strategic collaboration with NorthStar Care Community (NorthStar) and its esteemed member, Hospice of Michigan (HOM), to support the mission of continually

improving end-of-life care. This collaboration marks a significant milestone in the standard of post-acute care, leveraging the powerful combination of innovative technology and best practices to advance value-based care delivery.

General News

Fortifying the workforce: Employers' guide to critical illness preparedness

iCrowdNewswire; 1/22/24

In today's ever-changing and uncertain world, employers are faced with the daunting task of ensuring the well-being and productivity of their workforce. One aspect often overlooked is the preparedness for critical illnesses, which can profoundly impact employees and the organisation.

Don't stop dreamin' turns nursing home residents' dreams into reality

iAdvanceSeniorCare, by Paige Cerulli; 1/22/24

The nonprofit now works to fulfill dreams for residents of all Quality Life Services homes, as well as for patients of Three Rivers Hospice. "There is one employee at all ten locations, including Three Rivers Hospice, that represents Don't Stop Dream' as a Dream Ambassador," explains [Paula] Elder. "They are responsible for learning about our residents and patients' needs and dreams, and submitting them for request. Most dreams are typically granted to our residents and patients after [research](#) is completed to ensure their safety, travel arrangements (if necessary), and staffing is available."

Non-print News

'Suncoast' review: Laura Linney-led semi-autobiographical dramedy is best at its most specific

Y! entertainment, by Katie Rife; 1/22/24

... Evoking "human life" is especially pertinent when talking about "Suncoast," the semi-autobiographical dramedy from writer-director Laura Chinn. The movie is based on Chinn's own adolescence — it's dedicated to her brother Max, who died in 2005 while Chinn was still in high school. Premature death is widely understood to be a tragedy, but there's a wrinkle to Chinn's story that gives it a bizarre specificity: Shortly before his death, he was placed in the same hospice as Terri Schaivo.

Today's Encouragement

Great things in business are never done by one person; they're done by a team of people. – Steve Jobs

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