

## Cordt Kassner

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## January 26th, 2024

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## Headlines

### **Medicare certifies hospices in California despite state ban on new licenses**

*ProPublica, by Ava Kofman; 1/25/24*

The agency has rolled out sweeping changes to target end-of-life care providers that were billing for unneeded services, but some fraud hot spots continue to evade scrutiny.

*Notable mentions: Sheila Clark, President / CEO CHAPCA.*

### **A study of how Americans die may improve their end of life**

*Medical Xpress, by Rutgers University; 1/24/24*

A Rutgers Health analysis of millions of Medicare records has laid the groundwork for improving end-of-life care by demonstrating that nearly all older Americans follow one of nine trajectories in their last three years of life.

### **Musician mom, 31, enters hospice in final days, writes song for young son: 'My art is all I have to leave behind'**

*People, by Jordan Greene; 1/25/24*

Cat Janis shared her final wish – for her song 'Dance You Outta My Head' which she wrote for her 7-year-old son — to go viral.

## Hospice Provider News

### **Marshfield Clinic closing Wisconsin hospice center**

*Becker's Hospital CFO Report, by Madeline Ashley; 1/24/24*

Phillips, Wis.-based Marshfield Medical Center Park Falls Home Health and Hospice facility, part of Marshfield (Wis.) Clinic, is closing at the end of February due to limited resources. Marshfield Clinic is working with other providers who offer home health and hospice services to provide continued care to patients.

## Clinical News

### **Hillman Foundation issues RFP for Serious Illness and End of Life program**

*Philanthropy News Digest; 1/24/24*

The foundation invites applications for its Hillman Emergent Innovation: Serious Illness and End of Life (HSEI) program, which provides grants to accelerate the development of bold, nursing-driven interventions with potential to improve the health and health care of marginalized populations. These populations include the economically disadvantaged, racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ people, people experiencing homelessness, low-income rural populations, and other groups that encounter obstacles to accessing quality healthcare services.

### **Defining key elements of a clinical experience in hospice and palliative medicine for medical residents in the United States**

*J Med Educ Curric Dev, by Carolyn E. Kezar and Andrew J. Lawton; 1/23/24*

The ACGME [Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education] has ... recognized the importance of HPM [hospice and palliative medicine] training for medical residents, establishing in its 2022 Common Program Requirements for Internal Medicine a new expectation that all residents have a clinical experience in HPM. ... However, internal residencies vary significantly. ... In this perspective, we draw from the available literature and our experience as educators to propose 5 core elements for creating an optimal HPM experience for medical

residents.

*Editor's Note: Does your hospice support nearby medical schools? Rich opportunities abound.*



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## Regulatory News

### **CMS confirms nursing home staffing ratios to finalize this year**

*Becker's Hospital Review, by Mariah Taylor; 1/24/24*

CMS said it will finalize the nursing home minimum staffing proposal in 2024, officials said in a national stakeholder call Jan. 23. The CMS team said they received more than 46,000 comments on the proposal, which was used to inform the final rule.

### **Home health benefit will become a 'skeleton' if Medicare payment adjustments continue, industry leader cautions**

*Home Health Care News, by Joyce Famakinwa; 1/23/24*

... The 2024 final home health payment rule included a 0.8% aggregate payment increase and a permanent prospective adjustment of -2.890%, plus dozens of other notable changes to home health care. ... With these cuts, NAHC [National Association for Home Care & Hospice] has estimated that 48% of all home health agencies will have overall negative margins in 2024.

### **'Rock bottom': San Antonio doctor addicted to opioids wrote fake prescriptions for 40,000 doses**

*San Antonio Express-News, by Guillermo Contreras; 1/23/24*

A San Antonio doctor who admitted illegally dispensing tens of thousands of painkillers that authorities believe contributed to the area's opioid epidemic has been sentenced to 30 months in prison.



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## Public Policy News

### **NY Catholics asked to oppose physician-assisted suicide**

*Catholic Courier, by Jennifer Burke; 1/22/24*

New York's Catholics are again being asked to express their opposition to physician-assisted suicide. The state's lawmakers are once again considering legislation that would allow doctors to prescribe doses of lethal medications to terminally ill patients.

### **Death with dignity bill introduced in Virginia with message from ailing congresswoman**

*Radio IQ, by Brad Kutner; 1/23/24*

Eleven states across the country have dignity in dying laws which allow those facing the end of their lives to take control over their time and manner of their death. It's a controversial movement but one a Virginia Congresswoman is personally connected to.

## Post-Acute Care News

### **Planning ahead for peace of mind: How an advance care conversation educator can help**

*Valley Health; 1/24/24*

In the Winchester area, about 20 percent of people have an advance directive. Hoping to increase that number and improve care in our community, Valley Health is enlisting retired caregivers to help people create one at no cost. One of

these Advance Care Conversation Educators, geriatrician Cyril Barch, MD, explains how the program works.

## Ethics

### **Hastings Center welcomes 13 new fellows**

*Press release; 1/25/24*

The Hastings Center is pleased to announce the election of the 2023 fellows. Hastings Center fellows are a group of more than 200 individuals of outstanding accomplishment whose work has informed scholarship and public understanding of complex ethical issues in health, health care, science, and technology. The latest fellows focus on a broad range of topics with ethical implications, including digital technologies, public health, disparities at the end of life, disability rights, institutional racism, pain and addiction, and climate change.

## General News

### **Local author shares a message of hope to caregivers in Newnan Parkinson's support group**

*The Newnan Times-Herald, by Gary May; 1/22/24*

Hughes wrote "Parkinson's Caregivers - Yes, There is HOPE!" about her experiences over 23 years caring for her husband Carlton, who had Parkinson's disease. Her mission is to encourage and support both caregivers and their loved ones as they transition through the stages of the progressive disease, from diagnosis, to daily living, to the advanced stages and finally, to hospice care.

### **Caregiver charged in death**

*Douglas Budget, by Matt Adelman; 1/24/24*

A caregiver has been charged with causing the death of her mother ... earlier this month. Central Wyoming Hospice and Transitions Center was present at her passing and notified Converse County Coroner Ross Gorman, who then notified Converse County Sheriff's Investigator Ben Peech because the alleged actions leading to her death occurred on the family ranch near Douglas.

*Editor's Note: This tragic death reminds us to review and update your organization's Policies and Procedures, annual competency trainings, and HR resources for Workplace Violence, Workplace Safety, Abuse and Neglect, and more.*

## **Washington State reaches a nearly \$150 million settlement with Johnson & Johnson over opioid crisis**

*AP, by Manuel Valdes and Hallie Golden; 1/24/24*

The Washington state attorney general announced a \$149.5 million settlement Wednesday with drugmaker Johnson & Johnson, more than four years after the state sued the company over its role in the opioid addiction crisis. "They knew what the harm was. They did it anyway," Attorney General Bob Ferguson told reporters Wednesday.

## **Study investigates perceived barriers to cancer care in rural South Dakota**

*Medical Xpress, by Addison Dehaven; 1/24/24*

... To assess the barriers of cancer care, the research team interviewed 18 health care professionals who work closely with American Indians, frontier and rural populations. Through interviews and analysis, they were able to determine three distinct themes that constitute as barriers and challenges for those with cancer: access, time and isolation.

## **Non-print News**

### **RCT of Palliative Care for Heart Failure and Lung Disease**

*GeriPal Podcast, by Eric Widera, Alex Smith, David Bekelman, Lyndsay DeGroot; 1/25/24*

In a JAMA 2020 systematic review of palliative care for non-cancer serious illness, Kieran Quinn found ... gaps, including very few studies of patients with lung disease, and little impact of trials on quality of life. The article we discuss today, also published in JAMA, addresses these two gaps. David Bekelman conducted a RCT of a nurse and social worker telephone intervention (ADAPT intervention) for people with heart failure and lung disease (COPD or ILD).

## **International News**

### **The nurse who helps dying patients write poetry**

*The Telegraph (UK News), by Flora Bowen; 1/25/24*

What will happen to me after I die? Will my family cope? How will I be remembered? These are familiar questions for Rekha Vijayshankar. As a palliative care nurse who is now Marie Curie's deputy head of quality and clinical

governance, she has helped thousands of patients to explore their feelings towards such themes through writing poetry and journal entries together.

## Other News

### Other Business Headlines of Interest, updated 1/25/24 per [nasdaq.com](https://www.nasdaq.com)

- Adus HomeCare (ADUS: \$88.94)
- Amedisys (AMED: \$94.28)
- Encompass (EHC: \$70.76)
- Enhabit (EHAB: \$10.65)
- Ensign Group (ENSG: \$115.29)
- HCA Healthcare (HCA: \$285.16)
- Humana (HUM: \$357.00)
- Pennant Group (PNTG: \$15.52)
  
- Vitas / Chemed Corp (CHE: \$593.00)

## Today's Encouragement

**I believe that it is a mandatory Law of the Universe that on Fridays, you have to do something a little fun. - Hanna Rhoades**

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