

## Cordt Kassner

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## January 28th, 2024

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### Headlines

## Sunday Newsletters

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

### **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, and the release of these documents on Friday confirms that.

*Publisher note: The full FDA report can be found [here](#).*

### **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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### **Advance care planning reaches underserved across U.S. recruitment continues for National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research**

*Hospice Foundation of America; 1/18/24*

Community outreach leaders and liaisons are urged to apply to serve as hosts

for the Project Talk Trial, a national, 5-year research project funded by National Institutes of Health that seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of advance care planning conversations and whether those discussions result in advance care planning actions. ... The project is specifically focused on underserved communities of people who historically have the poorest access to healthcare services and the lowest engagement in advance care planning, which include racial and ethnic minorities, low-income individuals, and rural populations.

## **'You can complain about it, or lean in': Top home health leaders brace for 2024**

*Home Health Care News, by Joyce Famakinwa; 1/19/24*

With the start of a new year, home health leaders are looking ahead, and identifying their top priorities. Some of these areas of focus will directly address last year's challenges, and some are proactive measures that will place them ahead. At Bayada Home Health Care, these priorities include focusing on the employee experience, as well as clinical model evolution.

## **Creative thinking needed to save rural hospitals**

*South Dakota Searchlight, by Tom Dean; 1/14/24*

Over the last 15 years, approximately 150 rural hospitals have closed nationwide. What does it mean? Are these facilities obsolete, no longer needed? Maybe in a few places, but in the vast majority of communities they provide critically important services.



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## **New dementia-focused payment model emphasizes caregiver support**

*Hospice News, by Holly Vossel; 1/18/23*

Without family caregivers, most hospice and palliative care patients would be unable to receive care in the home. Now, some emerging payment models are

including caregiver support as a key component. ... [These come] at a time when dementia-related illnesses are on the rise among hospice patients.

### **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...*

### **HHS: Lack of incentives bar home health, hospice providers from creating interoperable solutions**

*McKnights Senior Living, by Adam Healy; 1/19/24*

Long-term and post-acute care organizations have not received the same support as other care settings for creating interoperable patient data tools, putting home health and hospice providers at a disadvantage, according to [new research](#) by the US Department of Health and Human Services.



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## **Today's Encouragement**

**The first requirement in taking a step in the right direction is to take a step in some direction. ~Robert Brault**

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