

Cordt Kassner

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January 31st, 2024

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Headlines

Medicare and Medicaid programs; Quarterly listing of program issuances-October through December 2023

Federal Register, "A Notice by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services"; 1/30/24
This quarterly notice lists CMS manual instructions, substantive and interpretive regulations, and other Federal Register notices that were published in the 3-month period, relating to the Medicare and Medicaid programs and other programs administered by CMS.

Ageing Media Network, a WTWH Healthcare Company, announces the Frontline Honors Class of 2023

Home Health Care News, by Jessica Longly; 1/30/24

Ageing Media Network, a WTWH Healthcare company, is proud to announce the

Frontline Honors Class of 2023. With nominations in the categories of Behavioral Health, Home Health & Home Care, Hospice & Palliative Care, Senior Housing & Senior Living, and Skilled Nursing (SNF), the program showcases exemplary character and performance of frontline workers across the care continuum. Hospice & Palliative Care:

1. Eve Conversa – Hospice Nurse Practitioner, Advocate Health/Advocate Hospice
2. Leigh Jenks – Hospice and Palliative Care Music Therapist, Blue Ridge Hospice
3. Mihir Kamdar – Head of Clinical Delivery, Tuesday Health
4. Michele Senbertrand – Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner, By The Bay Health

Hospice Provider News

Adventist Health re-establishes in-home and hospice care in Paradise and Butte County

KRCR TV, by Hannah Gutierrez; 1/23/24

PARADISE, Calif. — Adventist Health has announced that in-home and hospice care services have been re-established for residents in Paradise and Butte County. Adventist Health a faith-based non-profit health system, has served the Paradise community for more than half a century.



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New, grant-funded health care high schools aim to help address N.C. staffing shortages

NC Health News, by Jennifer Fernandez; 1/30/24

Efforts in Durham, Charlotte will graduate hundreds of students who are ready to fill jobs in health care professions facing shortages. ... A new \$29.5 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies will provide more opportunities for

students in Durham Public Schools to explore health care careers. Those students will be able to get jobs that pay well right out of high school.

Anorexia Nervosa: Evaluating disparities in places of death in the United States over 22 years using the CDC WONDER database

Cureus / NCBI, by Nirmal Patel, Rahul Tyagi, Deepanwita Biswas, Ayesha Birjees, Chetana Rajesh 6, Sadia Khan; posted via NCBI 1/30/24

Conclusions:[This] study found that death in home and hospice was more common than in medical or hospital nursing facilities in all four analyzed groups. These findings highlight the critical need for significant advancements in end-of-life care, particularly in home and hospice settings.

Clinical News

Increasing access to care: Designing a blended curriculum to educate adult hospice nurses in caring for pediatric patients

Nursing Forum, by Paige L. McDonald, Samia M. Abdallah, Laurie B. Lyons, and Deborah Fisher; 1/29/24

Access to care for pediatric hospice patients is inhibited by a lack of providers specifically educated to care for pediatric patients. Education that seeks to address this gap in care must develop the specific knowledge and skills required to care for pediatric patients, and this education must also be delivered in a format that enables convenient access to providers.



Accelerate Impact
Accelerate Influence
Accelerate Innovation

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Introducing the expanded JAMA Internal Medicine Editorial Fellowship

JAMA Intern Med, by Michael A. Incze, MD, MEd; Kenneth E. Covinsky, MD, MPH; Sharon K. Inouye, MD, MPH; 1/29/24

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new Editorial Fellowship program at *JAMA Internal Medicine*. Educating clinicians and future leaders in internal medicine is a core part of *JAMA Internal Medicine's* mission, and the journal has

had a robust Fellowship program for medical trainees since 2015. This year, we will grow our Fellowship program, inviting early-career faculty to apply for an immersive 1-year program that provides longitudinal mentorship and hands-on experience in learning how to work as a member of the editorial team at a leading, widely read, high-impact internal medicine journal.

Spotlight PA court victory leads to new academic research into Pa. medical marijuana program

Spotlight PA, by Ed Mahon; 1/29/24

After a 15-month legal battle, Spotlight PA in 2022 won access to data showing the reasons why hundreds of thousands of patients qualify for the state's medical marijuana program. We published a big investigation based on the records last year. ... In an article, the researchers described the work as "the first study in the U.S. of the association between dispensary locations and qualifying conditions."

Viewpoint: Care fragmentation, care continuity, and care coordination—How they differ and why it matters

JAMA Intern Med., by Lisa M. Kern, MD, MPH; Julie P. W. Bynum, MD, MPH; Harold Alan Pincus, MD; 1/29/24

Health care in the US is characterized by fragmentation, with many patients seeing multiple physicians. Indeed, 35% of Medicare beneficiaries saw 5 or more physicians in 2019.¹ Having multiple physicians may be appropriate, but it may also lead to medical errors, unnecessary visits, avoidable hospitalizations, and suboptimal care if all of the physicians do not have complete information about the patient and each other's care plans.



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In the hospital? Don't overlook the chaplain

Next Avenue, by Alice Tremaine; 1/30/24

Chaplains are the hospital's best-kept secret. Best-kept secret from patients, that is. Most of the hospital staff has figured out just how helpful chaplains can be, and will call the chaplain for everything that's difficult, scary or just plain weird: an unruly patient, a patient who received terrible news, a nurse who believes a hospital room is haunted, a mistress who showed up while the patient's wife is in the room.

Editor's Note: Click here for "[Common Qualifications and Competencies for Professional Chaplains](#)," by the Board of Chaplaincy Certification, Inc.

Regulatory News

It is going to be a bad year (or more) for the Medicare business

Wall Street Journal, by David Wainer; 1/25/24

America's seniors are going to keep up their elevated use of the medical system throughout the year. That is the message from [Humana's earnings release on Thursday](#), which is sending stocks of insurance giants sliding.

Has Medicare Advantage lost its luster?

Becker's Payer Issues, by Rylee Wilson; 1/29/24

Though Medicare Advantage enrollment keeps climbing, the program may not have the profitability it once did for insurers. In a January analysis shared with Becker's, Moody's analysts wrote that the program "seems to be losing some of

its luster," facing a significant increase in medical costs and lower reimbursement rates from CMS. Earnings in Medicare Advantage shrunk by 2.1% among the insurers Moody's rated from 2019 to 2022, despite premiums and members growing by 40% in the same time period.

Public Policy News

Medical aid in dying waiting period would shorten from 15 days to 48 hours under Colorado bill

The Denver Post, by Meg Wingerter; 1/28/24

A bill (SB 24-068) in the Colorado legislature would shorten the mandatory waiting period for medical aid in dying from more than two weeks to two days, opening the option to more critically ill people, but raising concerns for some about rushed decisions. It would also allow people who aren't Colorado residents to end their lives under the state's law, and let advanced practice registered nurses prescribe the drug cocktail.

Publisher's note: The Denver Post is the source article. If you run into a paywall, the [Greeley Tribune](#) is running the same story without a paywall. Similar stories are running in the [Colorado Sun](#) and the Colorado Springs [Gazette](#) without a paywall.

NJ Governor signs Medicaid palliative care bill into law

C+TAC press release; 1/23/24

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed AB 5225 into law on December 21, 2023, requiring the development of a palliative care services benefit aimed to improve the quality of life for Medicaid beneficiaries with serious illness and their caregivers.

Post-Acute Care News

Northwestern's medical residents and fellows vote to unionize

Chicago Sun Times, by Violet Miller; 1/29/24

Interns, residents, chief residents and fellows at the McGaw Medical Center voted 794 to 148 in favor of union representation, an NLRB spokesperson said.

CMS must 'ease burdens' if it wants more long-stay residents in value-based care: report

McKnights Long-Term Care News, by Kimberly Marselas; 1/29/24

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services must do more to move states away from an “extremely bifurcated” Medicare and Medicaid system that sometimes leaves dually eligible beneficiaries confused about their care and coverage, analysts said Monday. Roughly 1 million long-stay nursing home residents are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. In its new report, ATI Advisory found that they were more likely to be hospitalized and have a Medicare-covered SNF stay than their community-dwelling peers.

Technology / Innovations News

Healthcare data breaches hit new highs in 2023

Modern Healthcare, by Tim Broderick; 1/25/24

A record 133 million individuals were impacted by healthcare data breaches. Imagine after purchasing a car the salesperson slaps the hood and says there's a 40% chance in the coming year that an unauthorized person will gain access to it or just outright steal the car.

Full access to article requires a subscription

General News

First-ever survey of LGBTQIA+ older adults cheered by senior living provider groups

McKnights Senior Living, by Lois A. Bowers; 1/29/24

A planned first-ever statewide survey of LGBTQIA+ older adults in California is drawing cheers from senior living industry advocates. Responses to the online survey, conducted by the California Department of Aging and a statewide coalition of LGBTQIA+ community-based organizations and research partners, will form a baseline data set to inform plans for tailored services, the CDA said in [an announcement](#), which described the survey as “groundbreaking.”

Love, Valentines ... and snacks

journal-news.net; 1/29/24

In just a couple of short weeks, Hospice of the Panhandle’s Education Center, once again will turn into a Valentine snack center. And the end result will be that thousands of snacks, ranging from granola bars to raisins to potato chips to candy, will be distributed to Hospice providers and supporters as a thank you during Valentine’s season.

Seniors spend the equivalent of 3 weeks a year on health care, study says

The Washington Post, by Linda Searing; 1/29/24

Older adults spend an average of three weeks every year on doctor's appointments and other health care outside their homes, according to research published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Of those 21 "health care contact days," 17 involve ambulatory services, such as office visits with primary-care doctors or specialists, testing and imaging, procedures, treatments and therapy. The remaining four days included time spent in an emergency room, hospital, skilled nursing facility or hospice.

Publisher's note: Article behind paywall.

Recommendations for supporting healthcare workers' psychological well-being: Lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic

Healthc Manage Forum, by Melissa B Korman, Lisa Di Prospero, Tracey DasGupta, Mark Sinyor, Samantha J Anthony, Monika Kastner, Janet Ellis, Rosalie Steinberg, Robert Maunder; 1/30/24

Healthcare workers are at risk of adverse mental health outcomes due to occupational stress. Many organizations introduced initiatives to proactively support staff's psychological well-being in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, ... [such as] the STEADY wellness program, ... in a large trauma centre in Toronto, Canada. Program implementors engaged teams in peer support sessions, psychoeducation workshops, critical incident stress debriefing, and community-building initiatives. ... [This] article describes recommendations for future hospital wellness programs.

8-year-old girl with terminal illness becomes honorary K-9 officer

BNN, by Wojciech Zylm; 1/28/24

Eight-year-old Elayah Chance, a Plainfield resident living with a terminal genetic condition, had her dream come true as she was sworn in as an honorary K-9 officer. This heartwarming event was a joint effort by the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana and the Plainfield Police Department. Partnered with Officer Rob Prichard and his K-9 companion, Jocko, Elayah spent an unforgettable Saturday responding to calls and serving her community in a way she had always dreamt of.

International News

Ethical issues in pain and palliation

Curr Opin Anaesthesiol (Italy), by Marco Cascella, Alessandro Laudani, Giuliana Scarpati, Ornella Piazza; 1/30/24

Summary: Palliative care in the ICU should involve a multidisciplinary team, to mitigate patients suffering and futility. Providing spiritual support in the ICU is an important aspect of holistic patient care too. Increasingly sophisticated tools for diagnosing and treating pain, as those involving artificial intelligence, might favour disparities in access, cause informed consent problems, and surely, they need prudence and reproducibility. Pain clinicians worldwide continue to face the ethical dilemma of prescribing opioids for patients with chronic noncancer pain. Balancing the need for effective pain relief with the risk of opioid misuse, addiction, and overdose is a very controversial task.

More Quebecers donated organs after MAID but Canada needs standardized data: study

The Canadian Press, by Camille Bains; 1/29/24

Quebec researchers say organ donation appears to be increasing among people who received an assisted death but they're calling for greater collaboration to support those who choose to give, along with respect for their autonomy and dignity.

Publisher's note: As illustrated in this article, MAID does not rule out organ donation. It would be interesting to collect and report organ donation frequency following MAID in the US.

Today's Encouragement

The new source of power is not money in the hands of a few, but information in the hands of many. - John Naisbitt

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NOTE: Some links may take readers to articles that either require registration or are behind a paywall.

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