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Hospice Provider News

Four Seasons Home Care named 6th in nation

Four Seasons press release; 2/1/24

The Top 100 Leader in Experience Award is the highest recognition awarded by [Home Care Pulse \(HCP\)](#) and is only awarded to 100 home care businesses in North America. Recipients must consistently rank among the very highest in 10 or more quality metrics.

Hospice and home health survey perspectives: A conversation with Kim Skehan, VP of Accreditation at CHAP

Hospice Insights: The Law and Beyond, podcast by Meg Pekarske; 1/31/24

In this episode, Husch Blackwell's Meg Pekarske is joined by friend and industry veteran Kim Skehan. In this wide-ranging conversation, they explore not only the recent survey reforms but the ways in which Kim's decades of work as a survey consultant to hospices and home health agencies shape how she approaches her new role leading accreditation at CHAP.

Patty and Jay Baker reinforce palliative care at Mount Sinai: A significant stride towards enhanced patient care and medical training

Medriva, by Zara Nwosu; 1/31/24

The partnership between Patty and Jay Baker and Mount Sinai is much more than a financial investment. It represents a significant step forward in the advancement of palliative care. By focusing on both patient care and medical training, this initiative addresses the needs of the healthcare system from multiple angles. This comprehensive approach ensures that all aspects of care, from diagnosis to treatment, are improved.



Accelerate Results
Accelerate Growth
Accelerate Learning

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St Christopher's Hospice opens new charity shops in Dulwich amid community support

BNN, by Momen Zellmi; 2/1/24

St Christopher's Hospice has celebrated the grand opening of three charity shops in Dulwich, leading to a record-breaking fundraising year. ... The new Croxted Road store alone brought in over £20,000 within its first six weeks.

Editor's Note: St Christopher's Hospice was founded by Dame Cicely Saunders, the founder of our contemporary hospice movement: "You matter because you are you and you matter until the last moment of your life."

Palliative Care Provider News

The case for palliative care in the ICU

Hospice News, by Rachel Edwards; 1/31/24

An intensive care unit (ICU) stay often challenges everyone involved. Integrating palliative care could alleviate some of the suffering through symptom management, improved communication about goals and treatment, and better training and resources for staff. As ICU admissions in the final year of life become increasingly common, the need for better holistic critical care is growing.

Clinical News

See how 5 families balance care and comfort in pediatric palliative care

National Geographic, by Taylor Sisk, photographs by Lynn Johnson; 2/1/24

This medical team chooses to help families of children in palliative care prioritize quality of Life over taxing procedures and treatments. Our photo essay offers a glimpse of how they make the most out of life. ... [Interviews and photos are with the] Division of Palliative Medicine and Supportive Care at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. ... The goal of this pediatric hospice program is clear: Put family first.

Editor's Note: Note this source, National Geographic. Where do these photos and stories "take" you? I am grateful for Hospice of Louisville's (now, Hosparus) first hospice pediatric program in the U.S. I served on our Pediatric Care team for 4 years, and was forever, profoundly changed by knowing these children and their families.



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What the mental health crisis may be missing: Spirituality as a tool

Forbes, by Nicole F. Roberts; 1/31/24

It is estimated that approximately one in four people globally will experience mental illness during their lives, with about one billion individuals facing mental health disorders at any given time ... [such as] anxiety, depression, loneliness or some other diagnosable illness. ... Despite most people believing in both science and a form of spirituality there are fundamental differences in how and why people seek the care they do, and how and why they adhere to recommended treatment plans as they do. And much of those decisions is based on beliefs.

Alternative therapies for pain management in senior care

MedCity News, by Bent Philipson; by 1/30/24

Chronic pain, an enduring concern for many older adults, is no longer confined to the traditional realm of pharmaceuticals. While traditional pain management

methods like medication were once the go-to approach, alternative therapies are emerging as a viable and holistic approach to addressing this issue.

Hospices struggle to balance costs, patient needs in medication deprescribing

Hospice News, by Jim Parker; 1/30/24

When deprescribing medications for hospice patients, providers have to navigate a complex web of factors. But according to some clinicians, the prospect of cost savings often takes precedence over clinical outcomes. Medication costs are among hospices' biggest expenses, and deprescribing some medications deemed "curative" or "unrelated" to the patient's terminal diagnosis is a standard practice. However, even in the context of providing comfort care at the end of life, many patients do not receive medications that could benefit them, including those for pain management.



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Timely dementia diagnosis, specialized long-term care limited for members of minority groups: study

McKnights Senior Living, by Kimberly Bonvissuto; 2/1/24

Researchers from University of California-Davis Health and Oregon Health & Science University said that members of minority groups fall victim to systemic oppression that leads to a higher risk of hospitalization and more aggressive life-sustaining treatment in end-of-life care. Their research, published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*, analyzed 71 studies between

2000 and 2022 that examined healthcare access and quality for people living with [dementia](#) and their caregivers.

Nurses' encounters with patients having end-of-life dreams and visions in an acute care setting - A cross-sectional survey study

J Adv Nurse, by Alison Hession, Tim Lockett, David Currow, Michael Barbato; 1/31/24

Results: Fifty-seven nurses participated from a workforce of 169 (34% response rate), of whom 35 (61%) reported they had encountered end-of-life dreams and visions. The nature of end-of-life dreams and visions encountered was similar to those reported in previous studies by patients and clinicians. Nurses generally held positive attitudes towards end-of-life dreams and visions but identified an unmet need for education and training on this aspect of end-of-life care.

Editor's Note: This research was in Australia, yet has global applications. For U.S. leaders, call on your chaplains, many of whom are trained pastoral counselors to sensitively support and explore patient's "dreams and visions," in non-manipulative ways.

Public Policy News

The aid-in-dying question

The Washington Post, by Matt Valliere; 1/31/24

... As medical aid in dying is becoming legal in more states in this country, the terms "euthanasia" and "assisted suicide" are inaccurate, each in its own way. Where medical aid in dying, or MAID, is legal in the United States, the medication must be self-administered, whereas euthanasia involves a physician or other person being the agent of death. The term "suicide" and, hence, assisted suicide, should refer to a situation where the individual is not facing a terminal prognosis. Aid in dying is what it says: It is helping someone who is already dying and has no hope of recovery.



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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Poynter’s Tom Jones renders a nuanced verdict on Kevin Cullen’s ethical lapse

Media Nation, by Dan Kennedy; 1/31/24

Poynter media columnist Tom Jones has weighed in with a [lengthy commentary](#) about Boston Globe columnist Kevin Cullen’s decision to sign a legally required form that a terminally ill woman needed in order to proceed with her physician-assisted suicide — a story that he was reporting on, and that was [published](#) by the Globe last Friday.

Post-Acute Care News

Hospitals serving Black & Hispanic populations lack cancer resources

Oncology Times, by Sarah DiGiulio; 2/1/24

Hospitals across the U.S. that treat the highest number of Black and Hispanic patients have significantly lower odds of offering key cancer services, such as PET/CT scanning, robotic surgery, and palliative care, than other hospitals. That was the top finding from recent research published in JAMA Oncology.

Technology / Innovations News

VR relaxation therapy could be important tool for palliative care, study shows

McKnights Senior Living, by Aaron Dorman; 2/1/24

Virtual reality has been gaining traction as an option for filling care and therapy gaps within senior living. But could VR even be a *superior* option for therapy, compared to “real-life” approaches? One new study makes this bold claim, and offers both normative and analytical evidence for why this may be the case.

General News

Tips for caring for loved ones at the end of their life

CBC Life, by Caitlin Stall-Paquet; 1/30/24

Palliative care experts on how to comfort a dying person and prepare yourself for the supportive role. ...

- Being honest about what's ahead ...
- Deferring to the medical team--and the patient ...
- Offering comfort ...
- Taking care of yourself as well ...

Hospital staff fulfills hospice patient's final wish to attend son's wedding

NBC 10 News; 1/31/24

A hospice patient in Fall River was able to attend his son's wedding, thanks to the help of some healthcare workers. The wedding was held inside of Charlton Memorial Hospital's chapel on Wednesday. Staff said it was patient John's last wish to see his son get married.

Hospice dog in Leonberg: Golden retriever Jamie provides comfort to the dying

Lofta; 1/30/24

A quick smile – Golden Retriever Jamie gives dying people a valuable moment of lightness through his mere presence. He is a visiting dog at the Leonberg hospice. ...

New Braunfels Hope Hospice veteran and wife reunited with son, who lives in Japan

The Herald-Zeitung, by Erica Wilson; 1/31/24

Hope Hospice's recent partnership with the nonprofit Luke's Wings made this long-awaited reunion possible. Hope Hospice covers a 50-mile radius from New Braunfels, providing hospice care and community grief services. Luke's Wings is based in Washington, D.C. and provides emergency travel planning services and airplane tickets for families of wounded or ill service members, veterans and fallen officers.

Editor's Note: [Click here for Luke's Wings website.](#)

International News

The power of the patient's voice: Enhancing end-of-life care

Medriva, by Ayanna Amadi; 1/31/24

End-of-life care is a delicate and complex area of healthcare, requiring a balanced blend of clinical expertise, emotional sensitivity, and communication skills. The End-of-Life Essentials team at Flinders University has created a stirring video titled 'The Patient's Perspective,' focusing on the importance of patient input in improving end-of-life care. The video presents a moving narrative from the vantage point of a patient dealing with serious illness, highlighting the profound impact of healthcare staff interactions.

Global cancer burden growing, amidst mounting need for services

World Health Organization; 2/1/24

Ahead of World Cancer Day, the World Health Organization (WHO)'s cancer agency, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), released the [latest estimates](#) of the global burden of cancer. ... Three major cancer types in 2022: lung, breast and colorectal cancers

Other News

Executive personnel changes:

- Kristin Laboda, new Executive Director of Good Samaritan Hospice in PA, Cranberry Eagle
- Balu Natarajan, MD, new Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, AccentCare in Dallas, TX / nationwide, PR Newswire
- Thomas Priselac, president and CEO of Cedars-Sinai Health System in Los Angeles, has announced his retirement after 30 years in the role, Becker's Hospital Review

Other Business Headlines of Interest, updated 2/1/24 per [nasdaq.com](#)

- [Adus HomeCare \(ADUS: \\$88.49\)](#)
- [Amedisys \(AMED: \\$94.02\)](#)
- [Encompass \(EHC: \\$73.01\)](#)
- [Enhabit \(EHAB: \\$10.27\)](#),cin

- Ensign Group (ENSG: \$115.35)
- HCA Healthcare (HCA: \$314.86)
- Humana (HUM: \$372.10)
- Pennant Group (PNTG: \$15.39)

- Vitas / Chemed Corp (CHE: \$598.18)

Today's Encouragement

If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair. – Shirley Chisholm

Editor's Note: Hospice & Palliative Care Today honors Black History Month through our "Today's Encouragement" posts for February.

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