

Cordt Kassner

From: Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:00 AM
To: Cordt Kassner
Subject: Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 02/07/24

OUR SPONSORS



[Teleios Collaborative Network](#)
[Community Health Accreditation Partner](#)
[Hospice Analytics](#)

February 7th, 2024

Contents

- [1. StateServe's Delta Care Rx acquisition fueled by hospice cost saving potential](#)
- [2. University of Colorado researcher uses platform to advocate for LGBTQ+ patients in hospice care](#)
- [3. Hospice provider BrightSpring begins trading on NASDAQ](#)
- [4. After almost a year closed, Longview hospice center \[reopens\]](#)
- [5. Hospice of the Plains annual hog roast draws big crowd](#)
- [6. Key palliative care trends to watch in 2024](#)
- [7. Clinicians and caregivers must keep pace with new pacemaker tech available for seniors: study](#)
- [8. Cancer is the leading cause of death in HIV-positive individuals](#)
- [9. The last leaf on the vine: What is lost when a generation passes away](#)
- [10. What to know about the federal government's big changes to marijuana rules coming soon](#)
- [11. Transforming value-based dementia care—Implications for the GUIDE Model](#)
- [12. Look both ways: Euthanasia](#)

13. Elara Caring CEO Scott Powers: MA plans coming to negotiating table with more 'reasonable expectations'
14. Predicting private equity's involvement in home health care in 2024
15. Gabelli & Co Investment Advisers Inc. grows position in Amedisys, Inc.
16. Patient-centered focus is key to reducing hospitalizations, value-based success, experts say
17. The first 8 hospitals to attain Joint Commission's equity certification
18. Explore the enormous benefits of multigenerational living in this essential guide for the modern American family
19. Rural hospitals caught in aging-facility dilemma
20. Mass General Brigham pilot: AI tool helped optimize palliative care utilization
21. Northern Light Health works to get back online after computer server breach
22. Rising workplace violence against nurses: A pressing issue in the healthcare sector
23. Congress' failure to address violence against health care workers
24. Cigna to sell Medicare business to HCSC for \$3.3B
25. Today's Encouragement: from Jesse Owens

Hospice Provider News

StateServe's Delta Care Rx acquisition fueled by hospice cost saving potential

Hospice News, by Holly Vossel; 1/29/24

Durable medical equipment (DME) provider StateServ has acquired Delta Care Rx, a national hospice pharmaceutical benefits manager (PBM). The acquisition is a move aimed at leveraging technology to improve quality, care delivery and operational efficiencies among hospice, palliative and post-acute care providers, according to Drew Mihalyo, founder, president and COO of Delta Care Rx.

University of Colorado researcher uses platform to advocate for LGBTQ+ patients in hospice care

McKnights Home Care, by Foster Stubbs; 2/6/24

Personal identity plays a big role in Carey Candrian's research. An associate professor of medicine-internal medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine who identifies as a lesbian, her work primarily focuses on the experiences of older LGBTQ+ adults in hospice care. This work is especially

important today in the wake of increased violence towards the community and inconsistent legal protections in recent years.

Hospice provider BrightSpring begins trading on NASDAQ

Hospice News, by Jim Parker; 1/29/24

BrightSpring Health Services, Inc. has begun trading on the NASDAQ under the stock symbol BTSG. BrightSpring is a home- and community-based health care services platform that serves more than 400,000 patients daily.

Notable mentions: Jon Rousseau, CEO BrightSpring.



Accelerate Results
Accelerate Growth
Accelerate Learning

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

After almost a year closed, Longview hospice center [reopens]

The Daily News (Longview, WA), by Minka Atkinson; 2/2/24

PeaceHealth Richard Nau Hospice House is scheduled to begin accepting patients Monday [2/5/24]. An open house Wednesday [1/31/24] allowed community members to tour the facility and meet with care staff ahead of the center's opening.

Hospice of the Plains annual hog roast draws big crowd

News Channel Nebraska, by Forrest Hershberger; 2/4/24

Hospice of the Plains supporters took part in the 21st annual hog roast an auction hosted by the Sterling Elks Club February 3. The annual event is one of the major fundraisers for the organization, according to Tiffany Storch, CEO/Administrator of Hospice of the Plains.

Palliative Care Provider News

Key palliative care trends to watch in 2024

Hospice News, by Jim Parker; 1/29/24

- Rising demand
- Staffing, reimbursement headwinds
- Movement towards value-based payment
- Partnerships will abound



Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Clinical News

Clinicians and caregivers must keep pace with new pacemaker tech available for seniors: study

McKnight's Senior Living, by Aaron Dorman; 2/6/24

As new pacemaker and implantable heart technology becomes available, it has become increasingly important for caregivers to keep track of the different models. A new survey classifies cardiac implantable electronic devices, or CIEDs, according to both their function and where in the heart their components are placed. The various categories also overlap, the study indicates, as CIEDs can be leadless — that is, have no wires connecting heart implants to the battery — and can include defibrillator shock capabilities.

Editor's Note: Dying with an defibrillator can be traumatic for the patient and the family if the implanted defibrillator attempts to shock the person back to life, even after the heart has given out. Examine this with your Medical Director, physicians and nurses, and Policies and Procedures.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in HIV-positive individuals

Managed Healthcare Executive, by Logan Lutton; 1/17/24

In those with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), there is a 10-fold higher cancer risk than in the general population, according to the annual [Cancer Facts and Figures report from the American Cancer Society](#) published [1/17/24]. Because HIV compromises the immune system, it increases the risk of infections like human papillomavirus (HPV) that can lead to cervical cancer. Ten cancers are associated with HIV. These include non-Hodgkin lymphoma, cervical, liver, anal, and lung cancers. Access to care is another barrier for the community.

There are still nine states where it is legal for healthcare professionals to refuse to care for LGBTQ+ patients: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, Montana, Ohio, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The patients in these states account for an estimated 20% of the entire LGBTQ+ population.

The last leaf on the vine: What is lost when a generation passes away

Inside Higher Ed, by Steven Mintz; 2/6/24

... For my extended family, my mother is (or was, depending on when you read this piece) the last leaf on the vine, the last surviving member of a generation born in the 1920s that personally recalls the hardships of the Great Depression and the disruptions, upheavals, sacrifices and horrors of World War II. And that leaf is poised to fall.



Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

What to know about the federal government's big changes to marijuana rules coming soon

Cannabis Business Executive (CBE); 2/5/24

It could come today. Or in a few weeks. Maybe within the next month. Whenever it happens, rescheduling marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act – which regulates what drugs are considered illegal and just how illegal they are – would be the biggest step the federal government has taken toward marijuana legalization since it was first outlawed nearly 100 years ago.

Transforming value-based dementia care—Implications for the GUIDE Model

JAMA Intern. Med; by Tarun Ramesh; Kushal Kadakia, MS; Lidia Moura, MD, MPH, PhD; 2/5/24

Dementia disproportionately affects older adults and represents an increasingly difficult population health and financial challenge for Medicare. Annual spending for Medicare beneficiaries with dementia is approximately 3 times higher than that for patients without dementia, with excess costs attributable to substantial fragmentation across the care journey. Patients with dementia experience polypharmacy and frequent hospitalizations and require careful coordination across multiple specialty health care professionals with support from unpaid caregivers. However, traditional fee-for-service (FFS) payment models may not adequately support costly medical and social needs for patients with dementia and their unpaid caregivers.

Editor's Note: Full access requires subscription or other online library access to JAMA.

Public Policy News

Look both ways: Euthanasia

Northern Star, by Kahlil Kambui and Emily Beebe; 2/5/24

Euthanasia, or assisted euthanasia, is the painless killing of a person who is suffering from terminal illness, chronic incurable pain, or has little time left to live. People opt for this to end their suffering and pain. The debate of euthanasia is such a hot button issue due to disagreements over the morality of ending someone's life, even if they are terminally ill or are in chronic pain. The practice is legal in some U.S. states, but not all.

Editor's Note: This article provides 2 opinions: "Euthanasia Should Be Legal" and "Euthanasia Should Be Illegal".



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Mergers & Acquisition News

Elara Caring CEO Scott Powers: MA plans coming to negotiating table with more 'reasonable expectations'

Home Health Care News, by Andrew Donlan; 1/30/24

Home Health Care News sat down with Powers to discuss the company's top focuses in 2024, and also what they're keying in on when it comes to Medicare Advantage plan negotiations, specific service line growth and next-generation technology.

Predicting private equity's involvement in home health care in 2024

Home Health Care News, by Patrick Filbin; 2/2/24

Health care's share of global private-equity (PE) deal count peaked at 13.7% in 2020. Three years later, that number fell to 10.8% — its lowest level since 2015. Compared to the bustling activity of 2021, home-based care dealmaking was mostly sluggish in 2023 and has followed that same trend.

Gabelli & Co Investment Advisers Inc. grows position in Amedisys, Inc.

MarketBeat; 2/5/24

Gabelli & Co Investment Advisers Inc. lifted its holdings in shares of Amedisys, Inc. ... by 405.3% during the 3rd quarter, according to its most recent Form 13F filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The fund owned 162,973 shares of the health services provider's stock after buying an additional 130,723 shares during the period. Amedisys makes up 2.5% of Gabelli & Co Investment Advisers Inc.'s portfolio, making the stock its 12th biggest position. Gabelli & Co Investment Advisers Inc. owned about 0.50% of Amedisys worth \$15,222,000 as of its most recent SEC filing.

Post-Acute Care News

Patient-centered focus is key to reducing hospitalizations, value-based success, experts say

McKnights Home Care, by Adam Healy; 2/6/24

To keep hospitalization rates low — and thereby produce better results within the Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) model — providers need a good understanding of patients' goals to tailor care to meet their unique wants and needs. ... Keeping these goals at the forefront of care can reduce their chances of being hospitalized, according to Cindy Campbell, senior director of advisory services at healthcare technology firm WellSky. But defining patients'

goals is not just a recommendation, she noted: It's mandated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

The first 8 hospitals to attain Joint Commission's equity certification

Becker's Clinical Leadership, by Ashleigh Hollowell; 2/2/24

Eight hospitals have achieved The Joint Commission's new health equity certification, which the accrediting organization rolled out in July. Key components of the certification require hospitals to make "health care equity a strategic priority and are collaborating with patients, families, caregivers and external organizations to identify and address needs that help translate equitable health care into better health outcomes," Jonathan Perlin, MD, PhD, president and CEO of The Joint Commission Enterprise, said in a June 27 news release just days before the program launched.

Explore the enormous benefits of multigenerational living in this essential guide for the modern American family

NewsDirect; 2/5/24

In today's rapidly evolving world, the modern American family encounters unprecedented challenges without a roadmap for guidance. Addressing this pressing need, *Under One Roof* (River Grove Books, Feb. 5, 2024) emerges as a comprehensive guidebook authored by Emily K. Graham, Angel L. Vargas, and John L. Graham. With a wealth of experience and insights, the authors present innovative approaches to multigenerational living, shedding light on its opportunities and complexities.

Rural hospitals caught in aging-facility dilemma

Lexington Herald Leader, by Markian Hawryluk; 2/6/24

... Rural hospital closures dropped during the pandemic, from a record-high 18 in 2020 to eight in 2021 and 2022 combined, according to the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, as emergency relief funds kept them open. But that life support has ended.

Technology / Innovations News

Mass General Brigham pilot: AI tool helped optimize palliative care utilization

Fierce Healthcare, by Anastassia Gliadkovskaya; 2/2/24

Artificial intelligence can help identify easy to miss patients who might be good candidates for a palliative or hospice care referral, a recent pilot at Mass General Brigham (MGB) revealed. ... Over the course of the pilot, 9% of 1,522 MSSP ACO patients were recommended for a consult by the tool, with 40 receiving inpatient palliative consults. An estimated 17 of those would have been missed without the Radial tool.

Northern Light Health works to get back online after computer server breach

Mainebiz, by William Hall; 2/5/24

Maine's second-largest health care system, Northern Light Health, said on Monday part of its computer network remained down after servers were discovered Saturday to have been breached. Northern Light Health comprises 10 hospitals including 411-bed Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor; over 1,000 physicians; six home care and hospice centers; and a total of more than 120 care locations.

General News

Rising workplace violence against nurses: A pressing issue in the healthcare sector

Medriva, by Zara Nwosu; 2/5/24

According to a report published by National Nurses United, there has been a disturbing increase in violence against nurses in their workplace, with a staggering 81.6% of nurses reporting experiences of violence. ... It negatively impacts recruitment and retention, with 60% of nurses stating that the experience of violence has influenced their decision to change jobs, leave jobs, or even consider leaving the profession.

Congress' failure to address violence against health care workers

Health Affairs, by Eli Y. Adashi, Daniel P. O'Mahony, I. Glenn Cohen; 2/2/24

According to federal government statistics, the "health care and social service industries experience the highest rates of injuries caused by workplace violence and are 5 times as likely to suffer a workplace violence injury than workers overall." Health care workplace violence has been a persistent and growing concern for more than a decade.

Cigna to sell Medicare business to HCSC for \$3.3B

Becker's Payer Issues, by Rylee Wilson; 1/31/24

The Cigna Group reached a deal to sell its Medicare business to Health Care Service Corp. for \$3.3 billion. According to a Jan. 31 news release from Cigna, the sale includes Cigna's Medicare Advantage, supplemental benefits, Medicare Part D offerings, and CareAllies, a value-based care management subsidiary.

Today's Encouragement

In order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort. – Jesse Owens

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

Sign up for our free daily newsletters [here!](#)

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

UNSUBSCRIBE NOTICE: Hospice & Palliative Care Today is a free subscription email. If you believe you have received this email in error, or if you no longer wish to receive Hospice & Palliative Care Today, please unsubscribe [here](#) or reply to this email with the message "Unsubscribe". Thank you.