

Cordt Kassner

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Research News

Saturday Newsletters

Research literature is the focus of Saturday newsletters - enjoy!

Hospice care experiences among Medicare decedents with and without COVID-19, 2020–2021

Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, by Ann Haas MS, MPH; Rebecca Anhang Price PhD; Marc N. Elliott PhD; Joan M. Teno MD, MS; Maria DeYoreo PhD; 2/24

COVID-19, the third leading cause of death in the U.S. in 2020–2021, affected hospice care for all patients and their caregivers in many ways; patients with COVID-19 faced additional restrictions on visitations as well as direct effects of the disease. Using CAHPS Hospice Survey data from 3274 hospices nationally, we found that caregivers of Medicare decedents without COVID-19 diagnoses in 2020–2021 reported slightly worse hospice care experiences than caregivers prior to the pandemic. However, experiences for decedents with COVID-19 early in the pandemic (Quarters 2–4 of 2020) were 3.2 to 4.3 points lower than for decedents without COVID-19; these are medium-to-large differences, and larger than observed among any of the 20 most common primary diagnosis groups for the 2 overall assessments of care.

Live discharge of hospice patients with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias: A systematic review

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, by Stephanie P Wladkowski, Cara L Wallace, Kathryn Coccia, Rebecca C Hyde, Leslie Hinyard, Karla T Washington; 2/24

This systematic review summarizes the growing body of evidence on live discharge among hospice patients with Alzheimer's Disease and related

dementias (ADRD), a clinical subpopulation that disproportionately experiences this often burdensome care transition.



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Hospice capacity to provide General Inpatient Care: Emergency Department utilization and live discharge among cancer patients

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care, by Kyusuk Chung, M Courtney Hughes, Sara Rahmanian Koushkaki, Mia Richelle Risberg, Michelle Alcantara, Jennifer M Amico; 1/24

Our results suggest that hospices capable of providing GIP care have lower live discharge rates than their counterparts. However, the fact that GIP care tends to be provided too close to death limits its effectiveness in preventing avoidable emergency department use.

Parent priorities in end-of-life care for children with cancer

JAMA Network, by Prasanna Ananth, MD, MPH; Meghan Lindsay, MPH; Sophia Mun, MPH; Sarah McCollum, MPH; Veronika Shabanova, PhD; Sophia de Oliveira; Sarah Pitafi, BA; Rebecca Kirch, JD; Xiaomei Ma, PhD; Cary P. Gross, MD; Jackelyn Y. Boyden, PhD, MPH, RN; Chris Feudtner, MD, PhD, MPH; Joanne Wolfe, MD, MPH; 5/15/23

Question What do parents who lost a child to cancer prioritize in measuring end-of-life care quality? Findings In this survey study of 61 bereaved parents, respondents prioritized end-of-life quality measures focused on symptom management and goal-concordant care, characterizing quality measures assessing their own psychosocial support and their child's hospital resource use as substantially less important.

A comparison of hospice care utilization between rural and urban children in Appalachia: A geographic information systems analysis

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care, by Radion Ssynarenko, Guoping Huang, Jessica Keim-Malpass, Melanie J Cozad, Kerri A Qualls, Whitney Stone Sharp,

Deb A Kirkland, Lisa C Lindley; 3/24

Long driving times from hospice providers to patients lead to poor quality of care, which may exacerbate in rural and highly isolated areas of Appalachia. This study aimed to investigate geographic patterns of pediatric hospice care across Appalachia... State-level policies should be developed to reduce driving times from hospice providers.



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Advancing the science of palliative care: Contributions of the Palliative Care Research Cooperative Group

Journal of Palliative Medicine, by Jean S Kutner, Kathryn I Pollak, Karen A Kehl, Christine S Ritchie; 2/24

The Palliative Care Research Cooperative Group (PCRC) formed to lead, catalyze, and empower a community of scientists to build an evidence base to ensure high-quality care and optimal well-being for persons with serious illness and their caregivers. The PCRC grew to 630 members representing 220 distinct sites... The PCRC filled an important void in serious illness science and set the stage for the next era of advancing serious illness research.

Participant safety in multisite, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trials in hospice/palliative care: Data from the contracted studies of the Australian National Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative

Journal of Palliative Medicine, by David C. Currow, Belinda Fazekas, Linda Brown, Slavica Kochovska, Katherine Clark, Meera R. Agar; 1/24

Controversies surround conduct of phase III clinical trials in palliative care... These studies are safe for participants and generate knowledge to support informed patient decision making.

Primary author characteristics associated with publication in the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management

Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, by Maurice C Scott, Katherine T Morrison, Riley Gillette, Ben Harnke, Jean S Kutner, Kathryn L Colborn; 2/24

Scientific journals are the primary source for dissemination of research findings, and this process relies on rigorous editorial and peer-review. As part of continuing efforts by the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management (JPSM) to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion, JPSM's leadership requested an external evaluation of their publication decisions.

*Publisher's note: Please also see the accompanying "**Evaluating equity in the Journal of Pain & Symptom Management's editorial processes**" by David J Casarett, Vyjeyanthi Periyakoil, David Hui, Solomon Liao. I applaud JPSM for both undertaking this external review and reporting outcomes.*



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Attending to the moral meaning of pain

Pain Management Nursing, by Esther I Bernhofer; 2/24

In addition to a physical and emotional experience, pain is also a morally infused experience with deep, often subconscious, meaning for many sufferers. Whether justified or not, for many people, pain may represent loss, judgement, unworthiness, abandonment, punishment, and even existential suffering and thoughts of death... Yet the moral meaning of pain is rarely discussed and is often overlooked when establishing a relationship with and a treatment plan for a person with pain.

Are hospice Google ratings correlated with patient experience scores? Evidence from a national hospice study

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care, by Ganisher Davlyatov, Mengying He, Gregory Orewa, Haiyan Qu, Robert Weech-Maldonado; 2/22

Choosing hospice care for your loved ones is often challenging. Online ratings such as Google rating has become a go-to source for most consumers. Hospice Google ratings were highly correlated with patients' and families' experience scores as measured by the CAHPS survey.

Publisher's note: While this article is from 2022, it recently came to my attention and wanted to share it.

Books

Hospice & Palliative Care Handbook, Fourth Edition: Quality, Compliance, and Reimbursement; 4th Edition

American Medical Association, by Tina M. Marrelli, with Jennifer Kennedy; 2023

[This book] offers updated coverage of all aspects of hospice and palliative care for the entire healthcare team who provide important care while meeting difficult multilevel regulations. This edition includes examples and strategies covering key topics related to standards, guidelines, goals, and effective care planning.



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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Today's Encouragement

Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire. - Terry Crews

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

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