

Cordt Kassner

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<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>
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Headlines

HPNF Diversity in Health Care Series

Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association; 2/12/24

The Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation (HPNF) has received generous philanthropic support to develop a series of educational resources for hospice and palliative care nurses, tailored to cover fundamental considerations for caring for patients of various faith backgrounds.

Publisher's note: Video series includes an introduction, and end-of-life care for Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, and Muslim patients.

Medicare is booming, and providers are bracing themselves

Modern Healthcare, by Alex Kacik; 2/12/24

The aging of the baby boomers means Medicare enrollment growth is expected to exceed that of other major payers.

Hospice Provider News

CMS publishes Hospice Item Set Manual changes

McKnights Home Care, by Adam Healy; 2/12/24

Changes went into effect 1/31/24. Table includes Chapter and/or Section in V3.01 of HIS Manual; Page # in V3.01 of HIS Manual; Revision; Explanation



Accelerate Results
Accelerate Growth
Accelerate Learning

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Using patient narratives to evaluate a hospice service

Nursing Times - Patient Experience, by Val Stangoe and Steve Mee; 2/12/24

Questionnaire surveys at a hospice proved ineffective as a tool to identify areas for service improvement, but narrative inquiry with patients and their families identified important deficits that offered clear guidance for service development. This method needed a careful, respectful approach, as well as significant time and resources, but proved to be invaluable. Many of the patients enjoyed having an opportunity to tell their stories, while nursing staff could be involved in the project, thereby enhancing their skills and raising their ambitions.

Clinical News

The most common cancers for men and women in 2024

Becker's Hospital Review, by Mariah Taylor; 2/5/24

Of all cancer cases in men in 2024, 48% are predicted to be prostate, lung and colon and rectum and 51% of all new cases in women are expected to be from breast, lung and colon and rectum cancers, researchers from the American Cancer Society found.

Highest-paying cities for nurses in every state

Becker's Clinical Leadership, by Mariah Taylor; 2/6/24

Here is the top metro area in every state with the median annual wage for nurses. [Highest paying cities include:]

1. California — Santa Cruz: \$175,350
2. Hawaii — Urban Honolulu: \$127,020
3. Alaska — Fairbanks: \$107,880
4. Connecticut — Danbury: \$105,370
5. New York — New York City: \$103,540

6. Washington — Spokane: \$100,280

Publisher's note: See article for list including every state.



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Large study ties OCD to greater risk of death from any cause

JAMA, by Emily Harris; 2/7/24

Previous research on the mortality risk of people with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) has shown mixed results and hasn't gone into specific causes of death. Now, results from [a large cohort study](#) published in The BMJ suggests they have an 82% higher risk of dying from all causes.

ChatGPT analyzes speech patterns to identify Alzheimer's 87 percent of the time, researchers show

McKnight's Senior Living, by Aaron Dorman; 2/9/24

Since ChatGPT went live roughly 15 months ago, researchers have been studying whether artificial intelligence tools can be used to treat or predict Alzheimer's... One of the main symptoms of dementia, even at earlier stages, is confusion or speech difficulties... ChatGPT was able to correctly identify Alzheimer's 87% of the time, a new study shows.

Regulatory News

Aetna forecasts higher Medicare Advantage costs

Modern Healthcare, by Lauren Berryman; 2/7/24

CVS Health has downgraded its 2024 earnings guidance as its Aetna health insurance subsidiary contends with higher-than-expected Medicare Advantage costs and a looming federal rate cut, the company announced Wednesday.



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Medicare Advantage provider, benefit cuts may follow rate reduction

Modern Healthcare, by Nona Tepper; 2/6/24

Medicare Advantage insurers are likely to respond to a modest rate cut next year by adjusting premiums, benefits, provider reimbursements and other factors to emphasize profitability, financial analysts said. Although the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has downplayed the effects of its proposed 0.16% reduction in the Medicare Advantage benchmark rate for 2025, the rule issued last Wednesday is the latest in a string of policies that has Medicare insurers and their investors wary about the program.

Public Policy News

Bill to legalize medical aid in dying for eligible, terminally ill Virginians passes state Senate

ABC 8 News WRIC - Capital Connection, by Ryan Nadeau; updated 2/11/24

A bill that would allow eligible terminally ill patients in Virginia the option of medically-assisted death, or “medical aid in dying,” has passed the state Senate along a narrow margin. ... SB 280 would “[allow] an adult diagnosed with a terminal condition to request and an attending health care provider to prescribe a self-administered controlled substance for the purpose of ending the patient’s life,” according to its text.

Post-Acute Care News

Minnesota nurses union proposes cap on hospital CEO pay

Becker's Hospital Review, by Kelly Gooch; 2/7/24

The Minnesota Nurses Association has introduced a "Healing Greed Agenda" outlining its priorities for the 2024 Minnesota legislative session, including a limit on CEO pay at nonprofit hospitals. The union, which represents 22,000 registered nurses and other healthcare professionals in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Iowa, did not indicate a specific amount in its agenda.



Why some health systems say 'hospital at home' not 'worth it'

Becker's IT, by Giles Bruce; 2/9/24

Some health systems have decided that providing hospital-at-home care "might not be worth it," *NBC News* reported. While "hospital at home" has exploded in popularity in recent years, particularly since CMS started reimbursing for it, some systems have been reluctant to partake in the trend because the CMS waiver expires at the end of 2024, ...

8 C-suite roles to watch

Becker's Hospital Review, by Alexis Kayser, 2/8/24

In the past year, more than 40 health systems have [taken a closer look](#) at their leadership teams — adding, subtracting, redesigning and combining roles to position their C-suites for the future. [Click on the title's link for] eight evolving executive positions *Becker's* is tracking.

1. Chief growth officer
2. Chief information officer
3. Chief administrative officer
4. Chief AI officer
5. Chief of staff

6. Chief of diversity, equity and inclusion
7. CEO
8. The dual-role executive

Editor's Note: Insightful, timely information for your awareness and strategic planning.

Will home care's wage violations spark closures—or more workers?

Modern Healthcare, by Diane Eastabrook; 2/5/24

Home care providers are split on whether the Labor Department's fines against the industry for wage violations could force more business closures or attract more workers to the high-demand sector. As more care moved into the home during the COVID-19 pandemic, the department's Wage and Hour Division targeted home care and home health providers in 2021 for overtime infractions, worker misclassification and other violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Technology / Innovations News

How AI-enabled speech analysis could diagnose, treat diseases

Modern Healthcare, by Gabriel Perna; 2/2/24

Healthcare providers and digital health companies are using speech analysis AI to anticipate heart attack and better understand a patient's social needs.

What primary care's "Barnes & Noble moment" means for the future of digital health

Medcity, by Kyna Fong; 2/6/24

Primary care is essential to living healthier lives, and we need all forms of it, from small local practices to big health systems and retail chains. Ultimately, it's going to be all primary care hands on deck, working together to make a lasting change for the health of Americans.

Ethics

End-of-life: The one decision AI cannot predict

Forbes, by Dr. Tal Patalon, MD, LLB, MBA; 2/10/24

We often talk about personalized medicine; we hardly ever talk about personalized death. ... When training an algorithm, data scientists usually need a

“ground truth” to base their algorithm on, often an objective unequivocal metric. ... However, with end-of-life decisions, such as do-not-attempt-resuscitation (as pointedly exemplified in the New England Journal of Medicine), what is the objective truth against which we train or measure the performance of the algorithm?

General News

Hundreds gather in St. Louis to remember former US Sen. Jean Carnahan

The Public's Radio - AP; 2/11/24

Children and grandchildren of former U.S. Sen. Jean Carnahan of Missouri recalled her wit, curiosity, kindness and hard work during a public memorial service on Saturday. Carnahan, 90, died Jan. 30 in hospice care in suburban St. Louis after a short illness. Carnahan became Missouri's first female U.S. senator when she was appointed in 2001 to replace her husband, Mel Carnahan, [who] died in a plane crash that also killed his son, Randy, and campaign adviser Chris Sifford, just weeks before the 2000 election.

Amazon cuts jobs in healthcare divisions

Becker's Health IT, by Naomi Diaz; 2/6/24

Amazon is eliminating a few hundred roles at One Medical and in its online pharmacy unit Amazon Pharmacy...

The most important qualities in a CEO

Becker's Hospital Review, by Alexis Kayser; 2/1/24

Here are the results of the poll, based on 1,318 votes:

1. Honesty and openness: 59% of respondents voted this
2. Compassion and empathy: 22%
3. Financial, technical knowledge: 12%
4. Charisma, public speaking: 7%

Cigna doubles down on growing Evernorth Health Services

Modern Healthcare, by Lauren Berryman; 2/2/24

Two days after announcing it would sell its Medicare business, Cigna Group outlined plans to double down on growth opportunities for its Evernorth Health Services unit... It also expects to benefit from the continued growth of Medicare

Advantage, despite its pending exit, by offering pharmacy benefits to these plans... Evernorth provides pharmacy, care delivery and benefits solutions to health plans, employers, government entities and providers. It also houses its Express Scripts pharmacy benefit manager, which is one of the top three largest pharmacy benefit managers by market share.

How the funeral industry got the FTC to hide bad actors

Wall Street Journal, by Dominique Mosbergen; 2/5/24

Mortuaries that violate fair-practices rules are allowed to take a remedial training program that shields their names from public scrutiny; WSJ investigation reveals more than 500 homes. Unethical funeral homes have exploited grieving customers for decades. What consumers don't know is that many of the industry's bad actors have been hidden from the public thanks to a sweetheart deal struck between the Federal Trade Commission and the funeral industry more than 25 years ago.

Other News

Google Health seeks clinical health equity expert

Becker's Health IT, by Laura Dyrda; 2/8/24

Google Health has a [job opening](#) for a health equity clinical specialist to serve as the company's expert in health equity and social determinants of health. The tech giant wants to bring on a physician with experience in public health and health equity to advise on research and product teams, integrate health equity into products and mitigate risks for increasing the gap in disparities and health outcome metrics.

Today's Encouragement

He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life. – Muhammad Ali

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