

## Cordt Kassner

---

**From:** Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter  
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2024 4:00 AM  
**To:** Cordt Kassner  
**Subject:** Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 02/15/24

### OUR SPONSORS

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



## February 15th, 2024

### Contents

- [1. U.S. News & World Report: How to choose a hospice provider and questions to ask](#)
- [2. NHPCO celebrates achievements of hospice and palliative care providers in nationwide Quality Connections Program](#)
- [3. Hospice of Wichita Falls gets multi-million dollar gift, renames Inpatient Care Center honoring Prothro family](#)
- [4. Hospice of the Golden Isles receives Auxiliary donation - \\$150k](#)
- [5. \\$25k donation to Hospice of the Piedmont from the Countybank Foundation](#)
- [6. Former President Jimmy Carter spends 12 months in hospice care](#)
- [7. Patients with cancer underuse hospice care, often because of disparities](#)
- [8. Changes in hospice care experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [9. PeaceHealth home care nurses strike: Picketers demand equal pay, better staffing](#)
- [10. What the 4-day workweek looks like in healthcare](#)
- [11. How New Day Healthcare plans to be the face of a changing home health landscape](#)

12. [Scandal exposes flaws in Iowa elderly care system: Stricter hiring protocols needed](#)
13. [How to support adolescents and young adults with cancer at the end of life](#)
14. [Private equity Medicare Advantage investment slumps: report](#)
15. [Could Illinois become a 'right to die' state? The latest on a newly proposed bill](#)
16. [CDC plans to drop five-day COVID isolation guidelines](#)
17. [NJ's 'medical aid-in-dying' law upheld by state Supreme Court](#)
18. [Legislative proposal on end-of-life options: The MMA's take \(February 2024\)](#)
19. [MIDEO Systems Inc. secures contract with city of Austin for innovative end-of-life care solution](#)
20. [South Dakota campaign joins state and federal efforts to expand rural telehealth access](#)
21. [Pharmacy in suit files for bankruptcy](#)
22. [Kansas hospital to transition to rural emergency hospital](#)
23. [Chief exec leaves PeaceHealth medical group](#)
24. [10 of the largest US healthcare companies by revenue - 2024](#)
25. [Today's Encouragement: from Ida B. Wells](#)

## Headlines

### **[U.S. News & World Report: How to choose a hospice provider and questions to ask](#)**

*U.S. News & World Report, by Claire Wolters; 2/14/24*

Hospice is a critical piece of end-of-life care for many families. Here's how to determine if hospice care is a good fit for you. [Includes "Questions to Ask Yourself," "Questions to Ask Your Hospice Provider," and "How to Choose a Hospice Provider."]

*Editor's Note: This high profile article provides concise information and questions for the public. Do your marketing materials address these questions? For CMS hospice CAHPS and HHS quality ratings, examine the [National Hospice Locator](#), which provides information about every known hospice in the United States.*

## Hospice Provider News

## **NHPCO celebrates achievements of hospice and palliative care providers in nationwide Quality Connections Program**

*NHPCO press release; 2/13/24*

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) recognizes the achievements of participating member organizations who have earned rings in the third program year of NHPCO's Quality Connections program. First launched in January 2021, Quality Connections (QC) is the only national program designed to support hospice and palliative care provider delivery of high-quality, person-centered care. The program is structured around four fundamental pillars which are re presented by four rings: Education, Application, Measurement, and Innovation.

## **Hospice of Wichita Falls gets multi-million dollar gift, renames Inpatient Care Center honoring Prothro family**

*KFDX 3 News, by Natalie McCain; 2/12/24, updated 2/13/24*

The Hospice of Wichita Falls' Inpatient Care Center has been renamed to reflect a generous multi-million dollar gift from the Perkins-Prothro Foundation, Dianne and Mark Prothro and Dale Prothro. The largest gift in HOWF history will honor the memory of Charles "Charlie" Philbin, grandson of Dianne and Mark, and Joe Prothro, Dale's husband, HOWF officials announced on February 12.



**Accelerate Results**  
**Accelerate Growth**  
**Accelerate Learning**

*Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today*

## **Hospice of the Golden Isles receives Auxiliary donation - \$150k**

*The Brunswick News, by Whitney Long; 2/14/24*

At the recent annual meeting and luncheon for the Auxiliary Hospice of the Golden Isles (HGI), ... [the] meeting concluded with a donation and presentation check for \$150,000 to HGI. This donation was made possible by fundraising efforts from Open Homes Open Hearts neighborhood fundraisers and from the 2023 Wine, Women & Shoes Golden Isles yearly fundraiser.

## **\$25k donation to Hospice of the Piedmont from the Countybank Foundation**

*Independent Banker, by William Atkinson; 2/12/24*

Countybank's Half-Century of Charitable Giving ... One recent donation of \$25,000 from the Countybank Foundation went to Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont, a community nonprofit network of care that provides specialized healthcare for those living with advanced illnesses. ... "When children lose someone they care about, it affects their entire life: their nutrition, their sleep, their relationships, their behavior and their schoolwork," Charlene Kish, CEO of Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont, said in a statement. "With financial support from organizations like Countybank and Greenwood Capital, we are able to provide education and support to both the child and the parents."

## **Former President Jimmy Carter spends 12 months in hospice care**

*NewsNation, by Katie Smith; 2/14/24*

Sunday will mark one year since America's longest-living president, 99-year-old Jimmy Carter, entered hospice care to spend his remaining time at home with his family. The 39th U.S. president elected to receive hospice care Feb. 18, 2023, according to a statement The Carter Center issued that day.

*Editor's Note: How are you addressing this length of 1+ year with the patients you serve? [Click here](#) for the CMS pdf of the 6-month rule, "Face-to-Face Requirement Affecting Hospice Recertification."*



*Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today*

## **Patients with cancer underuse hospice care, often because of disparities**

*Oncology Nursing Society Voice, by Elisa Becze BA, ELS, Editor; 2/13/24*

Most patients who die from cancer do not use hospice at the time of their death, ONS member and oncology nurse researcher Dena D. Shore, PhD, RN, OCN®, CNE, reported in an article published in ... the *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing (CJON)*. ... Shore conducted an extensive literature search for studies of hospice use in U.S. patients with cancer published from 2017–2023. ... According to her

literature review, cancer-related, ethnic and racial, and geographic disparities are frequently involved in delayed or nonuse of hospice care.

### **Changes in hospice care experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic**

*Rand, Journal of the American Geriatrics Society; by Maria DeYoreo, Rebecca Anhang Price, Ann C. Haas, Anagha Alka Tolpadi, Joan M. Teno, Marc N. Elliott; 2/12/24*

Demand for hospice and palliative care services increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hospices strove to meet this demand despite staffing shortages and visitation restrictions that sometimes prevented family members and hospice staff from visiting patients in institutional settings such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and hospitals. We examine how the COVID-19 pandemic may have influenced the characteristics of patients receiving hospice care, the settings in which they received care, and their care experiences using national data from the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Hospice Survey. The survey is completed by bereaved family caregivers following the death of the hospice patient, and is the national standard for assessing patient- and family-centeredness of hospice care.

### **PeaceHealth home care nurses strike: Picketers demand equal pay, better staffing**

*The Register-Guard, by Miranda Cyr; 2/13/24*

About 30 home care and hospice nurses and supporters were spread out at the entrances to the PeaceHealth offices in Springfield. The strike, which started Saturday, is scheduled to last until 7 a.m. on Feb. 24. "I really care about my community. I care about them being able to receive good care," said Heather Herbert, an ONA member and hospice nurse who was among those picketing on Monday. "We would not be striking if we felt that there was any other way to get what our community deserves."

*Editor's Note: Access might be limited for you, per paywall.*



*Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today*

### **What the 4-day workweek looks like in healthcare**

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

When it comes to a four-day workweek, the arguments for and against such an approach are varied, and its use depends on the industry and role. However, one thing is clear: There is data pointing to a growing trend.

### **How New Day Healthcare plans to be the face of a changing home health landscape**

*Home Health Care News; 2/12/24*

New Day Healthcare has been one of the most active acquirers in home health care over the last year. As it grows, it's looking to set itself apart from the home health company archetype of yesteryear.

### **Scandal exposes flaws in Iowa elderly care system: Stricter hiring protocols needed**

*BNN, by Mahnoor Jehangir; 2/12/24*

[Two recent] cases ... reveal the urgent need for stricter hiring protocols in Iowa's elderly care system. ... In 2023, an Iowa nursing home and a hospice program found themselves in the crosshairs of a scandal that exposed the vulnerabilities of the elderly care system. The facilities ... had unwittingly hired individuals with troubling histories. [One] had a criminal record for felony theft of \$25,000 or more; [the other] was listed on Nebraska's registry of abusers of the elderly.



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

*Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today*

## Palliative Care Provider News

### **How to support adolescents and young adults with cancer at the end of life**

*The Oncology Nursing Society Voice, by Kimberly Rivera DNP, RN-BC, OCN®, NPD-BC; 2/12/24*

... [Cancer] is the fourth leading cause of death in adolescents and young adults (AYAs), following accidents, suicide, and homicide. ... Appropriately defining the difference between palliative and end-of-life care can improve AYAs' engagement with services such as advance care planning—a specific step that increases AYAs' likelihood of receiving early palliative care. However, many palliative and hospice care services are geared toward pediatric or adult populations and may not meet AYAs' unique needs, impeding effective care planning.

## Regulatory News

### **Private equity Medicare Advantage investment slumps: report**

*Modern Healthcare, by Nona Tepper; 2/13/24*

Private equity investment in Medicare Advantage has declined in recent years amid rising interest rates and an unfavorable regulatory environment, according to a report the Private Equity Stakeholder Project published Tuesday.

## Public Policy News

### **Could Illinois become a 'right to die' state? The latest on a newly proposed bill**

*NBC 5 Chicago; 2/13/24*

A newly introduced bill in Illinois could make the state the latest so-called "right

to die" state in the U.S., if it is passed. The proposed legislation, SB3499, would create end-of-life options for the Terminally Ill Patients Act in Illinois.

### **CDC plans to drop five-day COVID isolation guidelines**

*The Washington Post; 2/13/24*

Americans who test positive for the coronavirus no longer need to routinely stay home from work and school for five days under new guidance planned by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The agency is loosening its covid isolation recommendations for the first time since 2021 to align it with guidance on how to avoid transmitting flu and RSV, according to four agency officials and an expert familiar with the discussions.

### **NJ's 'medical aid-in-dying' law upheld by state Supreme Court**

*Public News Service, by Roz Brown; 2/13/24*

After a five-year court battle, New Jersey's [medical aid-in-dying law](#) has been affirmed by the state's Supreme Court, which rejected an attempt to overturn the statute. Signed by the governor in 2019, the law was soon challenged by a physician based on religious, personal and constitutional grounds. It allows mentally capable, terminally ill adults with six months or less to live to get a prescription they can use to end their lives.

### **Legislative proposal on end-of-life options: The MMA's take (February 2024)**

*Minnesota Medical Association; 2/12/24*

Among the many important issues that the Minnesota Legislature will consider this year, at least one is expected to generate significant passions both in support and in opposition. That proposal, known as the End-of-Life Option Act, addresses a practice referred to as medical aid-in-dying or, for some, assisted suicide. It is a proposal that merits scrutiny and robust deliberation.

## **Technology / Innovations News**

### **MIDEO Systems Inc. secures contract with city of Austin for innovative end-of-life care solution**

*BBN, by Waqas Arain; 2/13/24*

MIDEO Systems Inc., a groundbreaking platform offering video-based advance care planning services, has secured a contract with the City of Austin. The partnership aims to streamline and digitize the process of documenting patients'



medical preferences, making it more accessible and understandable for medical professionals.

### **South Dakota campaign joins state and federal efforts to expand rural telehealth access**

*McKnights Senior Living, by Aaron Dorman; 2/12/24*

The continued need for telehealth options is particularly important for older adults living in rural areas. That reality may explain, in part, why South Dakota is working on [legislation](#) that would grant \$5 million to assisted living communities and nursing facilities in the state to implement telehealth and telemedicine technology.

## **General News**

### **Pharmacy in suit files for bankruptcy**

*San Antonio Express News, by Patrick Danner; 2/12/24*

County's litigation targets Trinity along with major retailers for the amount of opioids it dispensed. ... A lawyer for the county dubbed it a "pill mill." ... Trinity Pharmacies said in a court filing that 99% of prescriptions it fills are for patients in hospice care.

### **Kansas hospital to transition to rural emergency hospital**

*Becker's Hospital CFO Report, by Maeline Ashley; 2/12/24*

La Crosse, KS-based Rush County Memorial Hospital has decided to transition to a rural emergency hospital due to ongoing rural healthcare challenges like reimbursement changes, cost increases, governmental change, and a local population decrease.

## **Other News**

### **Chief exec leaves PeaceHealth medical group**

*Becker's Hospital Review, by Molly Gamble; 2/12/24*

PeaceHealth Medical Group Chief Executive Scott Foster, MD, is resigning from the post. Dr. Foster's last day with the Vancouver, Wash.-based medical group will be March 8, according to an [announcement](#) shared by PeaceHealth Executive Vice President and Chief Financial and Growth Officer Darrin Montalvo.

## 10 of the largest US healthcare companies by revenue - 2024

*Becker's Hospital Review, by Laura Dyrda; 2/9/24*

Below is a list ranking 10 of the largest healthcare companies, including health plans and systems, by revenue over the most recent four quarters.

1. UnitedHealth Group: \$371.6 billion
2. CVS Health: \$357.8 billion
3. McKesson: \$301.5 billion
4. Cencora: \$271.6 billion
5. Cardinal Health: \$216.2 billion
6. Cigna: \$195.3 billion
7. Elevance Health: \$170 billion
8. Centene: \$154 billion
9. HCA Healthcare: \$65 billion
10. Molina Healthcare: \$34 billion

## Today's Encouragement

**The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them. – Ida B. Wells**

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

### ***The Fine Print:***

**Paywalls:** Some links may take readers to articles that either require registration or are behind a paywall. **Disclaimer:** Hospice & Palliative Care Today provides brief summaries of news stories of interest to hospice, palliative, and end-of-life care professionals (typically taken directly from the source article). Hospice & Palliative Care Today is not responsible or liable for the validity or reliability of information in these articles and directs the reader to authors of the source articles for questions or comments. Additionally, Dr. Cordt Kassner, Publisher, and Dr. Joy Berger, Editor in Chief, welcome your [feedback](#) regarding content of Hospice & Palliative Care Today. **Unsubscribe:** 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.