

## Cordt Kassner

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## February 18th, 2024

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## Headlines

### Sunday Newsletters

*Top read stories of the last week (in order) is the focus of Sunday newsletters - enjoy!*

### **Hospice Benefit Policy Manual updates related to the addition of Marriage and Family Therapists or Mental Health Counselors to the Hospice Interdisciplinary Team**

*CMS; 1/22/24*

Change Request 13437 (PDF) purpose is to manualize changes to the hospice interdisciplinary group (IDG) to include Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) or Mental Health Counselors (MHCs).

*Publisher's note: Also see [CMS Hospice Open Door Forum \(November 29, 2023\) Q&A](#).*

### **Part 2, Latest updates from CMS Office of Minority Health: Advancing health equity in rural, tribal, and geographically isolated communities FY2023 year in review**

*CMS Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH); released 2/7/24*

The Advancing Health Equity in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities FY2023 Year in Review report, which outlined the FY 2023 CMS actions and initiatives aimed to enhance health care access and quality for rural, tribal, and geographically isolated communities, including the CMS Health Equity Framework and CMS Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal, and Geographically Isolated Communities.



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### **Hospice providers must be better regulated**

*Scientific American, 2/1/24 (updated from last week's publication)*

Too many hospice providers in the U.S. are run by private equity and for-profit

corporations. A lack of regulation allows them to provide abysmal end-of-life care.

### **New paths could allow medical aid in dying for people with dementia**

*McKnight's Long-Term Care News, by Kristen Fischer; 2/7/24*

A lot of people who have dementia want to use [medical aid in dying \(MAID\)](#) to end their lives before they lose their decision-making capacity and other abilities. This hasn't been allowed up until now but that could soon change, which could have implications for physicians, according to a new report.

### **Senior living providers can tap into \$25 million grant to develop dementia-specific respite services**

*McKnight's Senior Living, by Kimberly Bonvissuto; 2/7/24*

Senior living operators who provide, or are considering providing, respite services for family caregivers of people living with [dementia](#) can apply for a piece of \$20 million in grant funding. The Alzheimer's Association will use a \$25 million, five-year grant award from the US Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living to establish a new Center for Dementia Respite Innovation tasked with making respite services and service providers more dementia-capable.



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### **CMS publishes Hospice Item Set Manual changes**

*McKnight's 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

### **A study of how Americans die may improve their end of life**

*Medical Xpress, by Rutgers University; 1/24/24*

A Rutgers Health analysis of millions of Medicare records has laid the

groundwork for improving end-of-life care by demonstrating that nearly all older Americans follow one of nine trajectories in their last three years of life.

## **Hospice of Western Reserve plans to merge with Hospice of North Central Ohio**

*Crain's Cleveland Business, by Paige Bennett; 2/6/24*

Hospice of the Western Reserve, a provider of palliative and end-of-life care, caregiver support and bereavement services and one of Cleveland's largest nonprofits, intends to merge with the Hospice of North Central Ohio.



## **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.

## **Today's Encouragement**

**Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations. — Dr. Mae Jemison**



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