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Headlines

A year after Jimmy Carter entered hospice care, advocates hope his endurance drives awareness

ABC News, by Bill Barrow, Associated Press; 2/18/24

Since [Jimmy Carter](#) entered hospice care at his home in south Georgia one year ago, the former U.S. president has celebrated his 99th birthday, enjoyed tributes to his legacy and lost his wife of 77 years. Rosalynn Carter, who died in November, about six months after the Carter family disclosed her dementia diagnosis, lived only a few days under hospice supervision, with her frail husband at her bedside. Experts on end-of-life care say the Carters' different paths show the range of an oft-misunderstood service. Those advocates commend the Carter family for demonstrating the realities of aging, dementia and death. They express hope that the attention spurs more Americans to seek out services intended to help patients and families in the latter stages of life.

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."

Palliative care doctor: What dying feels like

Mind Matters, by Denyse O'Leary; 2/15/24

What does dying actually feel like? Most human beings have always believed that the essence of a human being survives the death of the body though the outcome is envisioned [in a variety of ways](#). But, assuming that pain and distress are controlled, what does dying actually feel like? Can science tell us anything about that?

Is the patient dead?

AMA Journal of Ethics; email 2/14/24

Debate over the criteria by which doctors declare brain death has some bioethicists concerned, 2/14/24. The *AMA Journal of Ethics* offers the following educational resources [from earlier articles in this journal]:

- [How Should Clinicians Respond When Patients' Loved Ones Do Not See "Brain Death" as Death?](#)
- [What Does the Public Need to Know About Brain Death?](#)
- [Inconsistency In Brain Death Determination Should Not Be Tolerated](#)
- [How to Communicate About Brain Death and First-Person Consent to Donate](#)



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Hospice Provider News

[Commentary: Virginia hospice care coalition a model for other states to emulate](#)

The Roanoke Times, by Steve Cone; 2/16/24

Here in Virginia, eight nonprofit hospice care organizations are working together with a private sector sponsor on a statewide initiative called the Virginia Hospice

Awareness Campaign to publicize the benefits of hospice. This approach should serve as a model for other states to emulate. (Two of the nonprofits in the campaign serve the Roanoke and New River valleys and Alleghany Highlands: Good Samaritan and ConnectionsPlus.)

Bon Secours Mercy Health outsourcing home health, hospice

Becker's Health IT, by Naomi Diaz; 2/16/24

Cincinnati-based Bon Secours Mercy Health will **turn over** operations of its home health and hospice operations across five states to home-based care company Compassus. Per the arrangement, Compassus will be responsible for overseeing the operations of 10 home health agencies and 11 hospice operations. ... Bon Secours Mercy Health will retain ownership of its hospice house real estate assets in specific locations, while Compassus takes charge of managing the operations.

Hospice wine taste and auction raises over \$273K

Coeur D'Alene/Post Falls Press, by Laurie Owen; 2/17/24

"Fly Me to the Moon" was the theme Feb. 3 at Hospice of North Idaho's 39th Annual Wine Taste and Auction. With over 400 guests, volunteers and sponsors at The Coeur d'Alene Resort attendees raised their glasses and bidder numbers to raise over \$273,000 to support the area's nonprofit hospice in its 43rd year.



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Clinical News

This hospice volunteer program is transforming end-of-life care for inmates in Maine

YouTube - News Center Maine, video news; 2/16/24

The prisoner hospice volunteer program started in 2001 as a partnership among the Maine Hospice Council, Maine State Prison, and Maine Department of Corrections.

Petals for Patients blossom smiles to hospice patients

KNWA & KFTA News, northwest Arkansas, by Elena Ramirez and Brad Horn; 2/15/24

When Becky Davis decided to retire, she wanted to help those in hospice in some capacity, and she found it in Petals to Patients. Volunteers of Circle of Life, a hospice center, put together bouquets from donated flowers for hospice patients every week.

A race against time: Cancer patient's touching keepsake for his family

BNN; 2/15/24

When time was running out, 44-year-old cancer patient Yiu created a heartfelt keepsake for his family. With the help of an art therapist, he cast a realistic mold of his intertwined hands with his wife's symbolizing their love and unity. This touching story highlights the power of love and hope in the face of adversity.



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Reimagining end-of-life care: Balancing polypharmacy, treatment modification, and quality of life in advanced cancer patients

BNN, by Mahnoor Jehangir; 2/15/24

In a recent groundbreaking study, researchers have illuminated the complexities surrounding polypharmacy and the prescription of potentially inappropriate medications (PIMs) to patients at the end of their lives, particularly those battling advanced cancer. This investigation, involving a cohort of 265 older adults, sheds light on the nuanced challenges and critical decisions faced by healthcare providers in managing the delicate balance between treatment efficacy and quality of life for terminally ill patients.

Causes and ways of death in patients with head and neck cancer

JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg; by Boyd N. van den Besselaar, MD; Aniel Sewnaik, PhD; Arta Hoesseini, MD; et al; 2/15/24

The results of this study potentially illuminate causes and ways of death in patients with HNC and support health care professionals in providing more patient-centered care, particularly for those in the palliative phase.

Regulatory News

Medicare program; strengthening oversight of Accrediting Organizations (AOs) and preventing AO Conflict of Interest, and related provisions

Federal Register, Proposed Rule by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; 2/15/24

This proposed rule would set forth a number of provisions to strengthen the oversight of accrediting organizations (AOs) by addressing conflicts of interest, establishing consistent standards, processes and definitions, and updating the validation and performance standards systems. Additionally, this proposed rule would revise the psychiatric hospital survey process, add a limitation on terminated deemed providers and suppliers when reentering the program, and provides technical corrections for End-Stage Renal Disease facilities and Kidney Transplant Programs.



CMS issues additional guidance on program to allow people with Medicare to pay out-of-pocket prescription drug costs in monthly payments

CMS.gov; 2/15/24

The Inflation Reduction Act's Medicare Prescription Payment Plan will allow people to pay Medicare Part D out-of-pocket costs over the course of the year starting in 2025. [On February 15th,] the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the second part of draft guidance for the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan that outlines requirements for Medicare Part D plan

sponsors, including outreach and education requirements, pharmacy processes, and operational considerations, for the program's first year, 2025.

NC Medicaid rolls grow by 1,000 people a day as smooth expansion rollout continues its third month

NC Health News, by Jamie Baxley; 2/15/24

When North Carolina launched Medicaid expansion on Dec. 1, state officials said the measure would provide health insurance to an estimated 600,000 low-income adults over a span of two years. It took just two months to reach 58 percent of that goal. More than 346,400 newly eligible beneficiaries have been approved for coverage as of Feb. 1, according to data from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

Public Policy News

Death with dignity: States expanding end-of-life options despite controversies

BNN, by Safak Costu; 2/14/24

In the ongoing debate about the right to die, states like Colorado and Hawaii face challenges implementing 'death with dignity' laws. Catholic opposition and ethical concerns persist, yet efforts to expand continue.

OBI says proposed bill would improve quality of life for at-home hospice patients

News on 6; 2/16/24

Our Blood Institute is bringing awareness to an Oklahoma Senate Bill it says would improve the quality of life for at-home hospice patients. The OBI said Senate Bill 2186 would make access to blood transfusions easier for end-of-life patients who receive care at home.

Research News

Kim Mooney-Doyle awarded nearly \$500,000 to study communication needs in families of seriously ill children

The Elm of the University of Maryland, by Mary Therese Phelan; 2/15/24

Kim Mooney-Doyle, PhD, RN, CPNP-AC, assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON), has been awarded a two-year R21 grant of

\$460,000 from the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) to research how understanding family communication during serious pediatric illness, from the perspective of adolescent siblings and parents, provides opportunities to prevent long-term distress.

Technology / Innovations News

Healthcare's Oppenheimer moment

Becker's Health IT, by Laura Dyrda; 2/16/224

The thing that makes C-suite executives most excited about the future is also making them incredibly nervous: artificial intelligence. AI exploded in healthcare over the last 18 months as ChatGPT ushered in a new era of capabilities to automate repetitive tasks, analyze data and generate sophisticated chatbot communications. But there are risks with AI, including trained biases, information security and accuracy.

General News

Demand for these health care jobs is increasing most in each state

Centre Daily Times, by Paxtyn Merten Stacker; 2/15/24

An analysis including more than 70 other health care jobs projected all but three states to add home health and personal care aides in the highest numbers. In just three states—Colorado, Florida, and South Dakota—did registered nurse job growth outpace home health.

Back from the Super Bowl: Terminally ill Oak Hill man gives update on his trip of a lifetime

WVVA, by Gailyn Markham; 2/16/24

Last week, WVVA shared the story of a terminally ill man from Oak Hill who had been selected by the NFL and Dream Foundation to go to the Super Bowl in Las Vegas. Well, John Dean, 63, is back home in West Virginia and shares some details of his trip of a lifetime. Dean was one of two sports fans chosen to attend the 58th Super Bowl and watch the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers go head-to-head. He says the experience was an emotional one that he will never forget, and shares more in a video diary he took on the big day. ... &ld quo;We are finally at the Super Bowl! My dream come true...Go Kansas City! Thank you, NFL, and, thank you, Dream Foundation for making this dream possible!"

UPDATE: Cat Janice tops TikTok Billboard top 50 with 'Dance You Outta My Head'

Billboard; 2/15/24

Cat Janice's "Dance You Outta My Head" has reached No. 1 on the TikTok Billboard Top 50. ... Cat Janice's "Dance You Outta My Head" takes the top spot on the TikTok Billboard Top 50 for the chart posting Feb. 15. Fans have supported her song while she's in hospice after being diagnosed with cancer, using her final song — which is dedicated to her 7-year-old son — to bring awareness to her condition.

Editor's Note: [Click here](#) for the original article that we shared with our readers on January 26, 2024.

Introvert CEOs poised to thrive

Becker's Hospital Review, by Alexis Keyser; 2/15/24

Historically, extroverts have been promoted to leadership roles at higher rates than their peers. But in the post-pandemic C-suite, a new leadership style is taking hold — one better suited to introverts.

Other News

Home health & hospice vs seniors housing: What investors need to know

Levin Pro HC; 2/13/24

We spoke with industry experts Eugene Goldenberg, Managing Director at Edgemont Partners, and Steve Monroe, Founding Editor of our sister publication, *The SeniorCare Investor*, to gain invaluable insights and help guide investors through the intricacies of two dynamic markets: Home Health & Hospice (HH&H) and seniors housing.

From law enforcement to hospice care: Rollie Seebert's inspiring journey

BNN, by Bijay Laxmi; 2/14/24

A Law Enforcement Veteran Turns to Hospice Care: Rollie Seebert, the former Deputy Chief of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, has traded his badge for a new role as the Executive Manager of Stoneridge Hospice in Phoenix, Arizona. This transition from law enforcement to end-of-life care marks a significant shift in Seebert's career, but his commitment to serving the community remains unwavering.

Today's Encouragement

Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced. – James Baldwin

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