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Hospice Provider News

What to expect from your language services provider during CMS test call season

MedCity News, by Kristin Quinlan; 2/26/24

Part of the CMS Star Ratings program, the Accuracy & Accessibility Study includes test calls designed to measure the accuracy of the information provided to a prospective beneficiary as well as the accessibility of interpreters in French, Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Tagalog. The test callers ask a series of questions related to the plan's policy; success depends, in part, on accuracy of the information provided and availability of interpreters.

4 key trends for hospices to watch in 2024

Hospice News, by Jim Parker; 2/26/24

Hospice operators in 2024 are navigating a rapidly transforming environment. Four key trends hospices should watch this year:

1. The continuing labor conundrum
2. A potential M&A rebound
3. A spotlight on regulation
4. Adapting to value-based care

Notable mentions: The Braff Group.

Hospice of Southern West Virginia receives grant

WVNS Bluefield, WV; by Ashley Davidson; 2/26/24

The Hospice of Southern West Virginia received a grant from the Beckley Area Foundation. The grant totals \$33,962.15. “We’ve had numerous awards from them over the years that allow us to grow and achieve... It allows us to innovate and advance and all in the names of service to our patients and their families,” said Jeri Knowlton, Director of Public Relations for HOSWV.



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Chapters Health System CEO on prioritizing value-based care initiatives in the home

Home Health Care News, by Andrew Donlan; 2/26/24

Andrew Molosky, the president and CEO of Chapters Health System, is keenly aware of the struggles that coincide with turning a large health care provider organization into a value-based one. The first priority in that situation, in his mind, is making sure that the entire organization is on the same page in terms of what value-based care really means, he told Home Health Care News ... “You want to get to the point where you can manage populations in the home,” Molosky said. “That becomes a parlay to reducing ER spend in a full-risk environment. It becomes earlier intervention for a hospice or home health episode.

The future of end-of-life care: How advanced directives are revolutionizing patient autonomy

BNN, by Mazhar Abbas; 2/23/24

Discover how advanced directives leverage AI, telemedicine, and patient-centered care to empower individuals in making informed end-of-life healthcare decisions, overcoming challenges, and shaping the future of healthcare.

Palliative Care Provider News

Palliative Care market revenue to surpass USD 6.43 billion by 2028

freePRnow; 2/27/24

The global market for palliative care reached a value of USD 3.53 Billion in 2020 and is projected to experience a revenue Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7.8% throughout the forecast period. Factors such as an increasing emphasis on enhancing the quality of life for individuals facing life-threatening or debilitating conditions through the alleviation of pain and symptoms, the establishment of professional palliative care organizations, and the broader accessibility of advanced palliative care services worldwide are anticipated to propel market revenue growth in the foreseeable future.



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Sierra Community Palliative Care receives generous seed funding grant from Dignity Health Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital

YubaNet.com, by Hospice of the Foothills; 2/27/24

In a significant affirmation of its commitment to compassionate care, Dignity Health Sierra Nevada Memorial, through Common Spirit Community Health, awards Hospice of the Foothills' Sierra Community Palliative Care a \$94,000 seed funding grant. Sierra Community Palliative Care led by Hospice of the Foothills is a collaborative program that includes primary healthcare providers, healthcare clinics, and the local hospital to bring comprehensive palliative services to Nevada County [CA].

Clinical News

Study gives credence to range of dementia caregiver decision tools

McKnights Home Care, by Kristen Fischer; 2/27/24

A new study analyzes some evidence-backed tools to help substitute decision-

makers make choices to honor an individual's medical, personal and end-of-life wishes. ... Substitute decision-makers are family members or friends of older adults who cannot speak for themselves (such as those with dementia). Data from the [study](#), which was published on Saturday in *Journal of the American Society of Geriatrics*, was derived from 25 articles published between 2003 and 2022.

Communicating with patients with hearing loss or deafness—Can you hear me?

JAMA Intern Med, by Dianne P. O'Leary, PhD and Timothy J. O'Leary, PhD, MD

... Virtually all health care professionals want to provide the best possible care and to communicate as effectively as possible. However, ... frequent communication failures are leading to inferior care for the hearing impaired. Effective communication might require some or all of the approaches listed in [this article].



Racial differences in shared decision-making about critical illness

JAMA Intern Med, by Deepshikha C. Ashana, MD, MBA,

MS; Whitney Welsh, PhD; Doreet Preiss, PhD; et al; published online 2/26/24

Question: How do critical care clinicians approach shared decision-making with Black compared with White caregivers of critically ill patients?

Findings: In a thematic analysis of 39 audio-recorded clinician-caregiver meetings, racial differences were most evident in the following clinician behaviors: providing emotional support to caregivers, acknowledging trust and gratitude expressed by caregivers, disclosing medical information, and validating caregivers' treatment preferences.

CareAcademy launches hospice care curriculum and expands offerings to serve post-acute care providers nationwide

PR Newswire, news provided by CareAcademy; 2/27/24

CareAcademy ... proudly announces the launch of its Hospice Care curriculum, marking a significant expansion of its offerings to support post-acute care providers. Renowned for its user-friendly platform and high-quality content, CareAcademy is broadening its focus to be a key player in the broader post-acute care landscape, serving home health, hospice and palliative care organizations.

Subcutaneous patient-controlled analgesia in home-based palliative care: "It's as straightforward as pushing a button, right at my fingertips"

J Pain Palliat Care Pharmacother, by Miguel Julião, Patrícia Calaveiras, Eduardo Bruera, Paulo Faria de Sousa; 2/26/24

Subcutaneous patient-controlled analgesia (SCPCA) in home-based palliative care is a potentially valuable option for providing effective pain relief to some patients, particularly when conventional analgesic approaches prove ineffective or are refused.



Regulatory News

Value-based care now driving home-based primary care growth, experts say

McKnights Home Care, by Adam Healy; 2/27/24

When Independence at Home (IAH), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' home-based primary care initiative, concluded at the end of 2023, after more than a decade, it marked the end of an era. Over the period of the model,

the rise of value-based care has given providers a wealth of opportunities to bring primary care into patients' homes.

Public Policy News

[Maryland] Medical aid-in-dying bill short on votes, unlikely to pass Senate committee

Maryland Matters, by Danielle J. Brown; 2/26/24

A controversial bill for medical aid-in-dying, which would allow qualifying terminally-ill patients to prompt their own death with the help of a physician, will likely be stalled for at least another year, as some senators "continue to wrestle" with the issue, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Chair Will Smith (D-Montgomery) said Monday night.

Proposed legislation would create tax credits for family caregivers

Hospice News, by Jim Parker; 2/23/24

A bill to strengthen support for family caregivers is working its way through Congress. If enacted, it would create tax credits to help offset the financial burdens of caring for the seriously ill. ... The nation's health care system is lacking in support for caregivers of the terminally ill, who are often left with a heavy financial and logistical burden. Without assistance or relief, these difficulties can impede access to hospice and other types of home-based care.

Mergers & Acquisition News

Legislation aims to increase scrutiny of private equity healthcare acquisitions

McKnights Senior Living, by Lois A. Bowers; 2/27/24

Legislation introduced ... in [California] would give the attorney general oversight of private equity and hedge fund acquisitions of long-term care and other healthcare facilities. Backers of AB 3129 say that it would "safeguard fair competition and root out anticompetitive practices by dominant corporations" as well as "ensure that the acquisitions are in the public interest." Under the bill, the AG could grant, deny or impose conditions to a change of control or acquisition between a private equity group or hedge fund and a long-term care or other healthcare facility.

Technology / Innovations News

Ransomware gang behind Change Healthcare attack: Report

Becker's Health IT, by Naomi Diaz; 2/26/24

The BlackCat ransomware gang is claiming responsibility for an [attack](#) on Change Healthcare, *TheRegister* reported Feb. 26. Two people familiar with the matter told news outlet *Reuters* that BlackCat, which operates as a ransomware-as-a-service group, was behind the Feb. 21 cybersecurity incident on Change Healthcare. ... A Feb. 26 update on Optum's website indicates that the Change Healthcare incident, which has disrupted the organization's payment and pharmacy processing operations, is still ongoing.

General News

HCSO: Hospice nurse killed after driver flees two crashes, runs red light

NBC WFLA TV News; 2/26/24

Hillsborough County, Tampa Bay, FL: The News Channel 8 Team presents the latest information on the events of the day.

Other News

2024 STATUS List: The ultimate list of leaders in life sciences

STAT, 2/27/24

The 2024 STATUS List features 50 influential people shaping the future of health and life sciences across biotech, medicine, health care, policy, and health tech. The list is wide-ranging: from executives and VCs who set their industries' priorities, to scientists expanding the scope of CRISPR technology, to researchers determined to eliminate racial bias from clinical algorithms.

Today's Encouragement

What we play is life. - Louis Armstrong

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