

## Cordt Kassner

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## February 29th, 2024

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## Hospice Provider News

### **Embracing the platinum rule in palliative care: Treating patients the way they want to be treated**

*Anschutz, by Tari Advani, MD; 2/26/24*

One of the first take aways from this journey, for me, in a mid-career directional change from emergency medicine to palliative care was a move away from the golden rule and towards the platinum rule. Treat patients the way they want to be treated, not the way we want to be treated. It is so simple, it allows people to exist in their own context, with their own histories and their own wishes. And, we, as caretakers, take the kind of care of them that they want. Where had that idea been during the past 20 years of my career? How many situations had I judged, wrongly, based on my own preferences, not the preferences of the patient.

### **Home health users have higher likelihood of hospice utilization**

*Home Health Care News, by Joyce Famakinwa; 2/26/24*

People who receive home health care during the last three years of their lives are more likely to utilize hospice care at the end of life. That's according to a recent Rutgers Health study that was published in the Journal of Palliative Medicine. As part of the study, researchers examined a sample of over 2 million U.S. Medicare

fee-for-service and Medicare Advantage beneficiaries who passed away in 2019, and were enrolled for at least three years before their death. What's more, these older adults were more likely to use hospice compared to individuals who have never used home health care.

### **The best changes 32 healthcare leaders made this year**

*Becker's Payer Issues, by Rylee Wilson; 2/27/24*

Question: What is one change you made in the last two years that had great results?

Leaders in the payer space are making changes to simplify members' experiences, improve equity and level-up the way their teams work together. The 32 leaders featured in this article, part of an ongoing series, [answered this question].



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### **Is healthcare paying enough attention to nurse leaders?**

*Becker's Clinical Leadership, by Erica Carbajal; 2/26/24*

Early this year, the American Organization for Nursing Leadership Foundation released findings from more than 2,400 nurse leaders who were [surveyed](#) in November. Thirty-five percent of respondents indicated they were considering an exit from their roles: 12% said they intend to leave and 23% said they may leave within the next six months. When asked what the top reasons were for thinking about an exit, nurse leaders pointed to work having a negative affect on their health and well-being and not having the resources to do their job — a parallel to what bedside nurses consistently point to as [drivers](#) of burnout or reasons they've stepped away from the job.

### **With Amedisys deal pending, Justice Department opens antitrust investigation into UnitedHealth Group**

*Home Health Care News, by Andrew Donlan; 2/27/24*

The Department of Justice is targeting UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH) in an

antitrust investigation, The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday. Specifically, the Justice Department is interviewing subjects around interactions between UnitedHealth Group and its health care provider services arm, Optum.

## Palliative Care Provider News

### **Palliative care startups require creativity, flexibility**

*Hospice News, by Audrie Marton; 2/27/24*

According to the World Health Organization, each year, an estimated 56.8 million people need palliative care. Worldwide, only about 14% of people who need this care currently receive it. ... Tiffany Hughes, chief operating officer of Texas-based PalliCare, found that the secret to a successful palliative care model is creating a continuum of care between home health and hospice for patients within the last 18 to 24 months of life.



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## Clinical News

### **Right-sizing interprofessional team training for serious-illness communication: A strength-based approach**

*PEC Innvov, by Liana Eskola, Ethan Silverman, Sarah Rogers, Amy Zelenski; distributed 2/28/24*

**Objective:** Palliative care communication skills help tailor care to patients' goals. With a palliative care physician shortage, non-physicians must gain these serious illness communication skills. Historically, trainings have targeted physician-only groups; our goal was to train interprofessional teams.

**Conclusions:** The course effectively trained 71 clinicians, the majority non-physicians, in serious illness communication and interprofessional team communication skills, and could be reproduced in similar settings.

## How death doulas support entire families

*Cure, by Alex Biese; 2/27/24*

... Death doulas, also known as end-of-life doulas, “provide companionship, comfort, and guidance to those facing a terminal illness or death” via non-medical holistic support encompassing “emotional, spiritual, and practical care,” according to the International End-of-Life Doula Association.

## Surgeon shares biggest lesson: ‘Never underestimate the power of hope

*Mofitt Cancer Center, by Corrie Pellegrino; 2/27/24*

An Interview with Dr. Monica Avila. ...

[Question] What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned from a patient?

[Response] I think the biggest lesson is to never underestimate the power of hope and the power of the patients’ will to live. I’ve had patients literally placed on hospice care who I have taken to the operating room, had successful optimal debulking for ovarian cancer and who are living life right now after chemotherapy. So I never underestimate patients’ ability to keep going and keep living.



## Experiences of nursing students providing end of life care for children and young people: A focus group study

*Elsevier, by Clair Camara, Leah Rosengarten and Jane Callum; 2/27/24*

This study aims to help improve understanding of the lived experiences of children's nursing students who have cared for a patient at, during, or immediately following end-of-life. The study describes the emotions experienced by children's nursing students and explores the student nurses' perceptions of education and support needs around caring for [Children and Young People] CYP during end-of-life care.

## **House set to vote on bill that could give dramatic boost to nurse-aide training efforts**

*McKnights Long-Term Care News, by Josh Henreckson; 2/28/24*

A bill that could reshape how new workers enter the long-term care workforce is scheduled for a vote in the US House of Representatives this week, according to a spokesperson for House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-LA). If passed, HR 6585 — referred to as the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act — would make work training programs of as short as eight weeks with a minimum of 150 hours of training eligible for the federal aid through the Pell Grant program. Previously, grants were available only to programs with a minimum of 15 weeks and 600 hours of training.

## **[Palliative Care] Are we consulting, sharing care, or taking over? A conceptual framework**

*Palliat Med Rep, by José Pereira, Christopher Klinger, Hsien Seow, Denise Marshall, Leonie Herx; 2/23/24*

Background: Primary- and specialist-level palliative care services are needed. They should work collaboratively and synergistically. Although several service models have been described, these remain open to different interpretations and deployment.

Aim: This article describes a conceptual framework, the Consultation-Shared Care-Takeover (C-S-T) Framework, its evolution and its applications.



## **Regulatory News**

**The state where all hospitals are on track to earn new Joint Commission [Equity] Certification**

*Becker's Clinical Leadership, by Erica Carbajal; 2/28/24*

All hospitals in Massachusetts are [meeting](#) a health equity accreditation standard that The Joint Commission introduced last year, making it the first state to be recognized for the accomplishment. ...& nbsp;Achieving the standard is the first step to obtain The Joint Commission's recently launched health equity certification, which all of the state's hospitals plan to earn by 2025, according to a joint news release from the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association and accrediting body.

## Public Policy News

### [These lawmakers want more pot to be grown for research](#)

*CBS News, by Kathryn Watson; 2/27/24*

Representatives Andy Harris, Republican of Maryland, and Earl Blumenauer, Democrat of Oregon, agree on little related to the legalization of marijuana. Harris opposes it for recreational use and also thinks that as a medicine, it should be scaled back. Blumenauer is pushing for pot to be decriminalized. But the two agree on this — that researchers simply don't have enough access to more potent, high-quality weed, and more producers should be able to grow pot for research.

## Mergers & Aquisition News

### [Addus more bullish on looming 80-20 rule, ready to ramp up M&A in 2024](#)

*Home Health Care News, by Andrew Donlan; 2/27/24*

Addus HomeCare Corp. (Nasdaq: ADUS) leaders expressed noteworthy optimism in two areas Tuesday: the pending “80-20” rule and their M&A forecast for the near-term future. ... Based in Frisco, Texas, Addus provides personal care, home health care and hospice to more than 49,000 consumers via its 217 locations across 22 states.

## Post-Acute Care News

### [Kinship PACE enters greater Chicago market](#)

*ConnectCRE Chicago & Midwest, by Jasmine Kilman; 2/26/24*

Cushman & Wakefield has arranged a new long-term 15,310 square-foot lease for [Kinship](#) PACE of Illinois at the Bricktown Square shopping mall in Chicago.

Kinship PACE of Illinois is a program of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE). This latest lease marks Kinship Health's first location in Illinois.

## Technology / Innovations News

### **How AI will help the world's top hospital CEOs transform health care**

*Newsweek, by Jeff Young; on 2/28/24*

Artificial intelligence is quickly showing the potential to revolutionize many aspects of care giving, from cancer diagnoses to clerical work. But AI also presents new risks, uncertainties and vexing ethical questions. With the release of *Newsweek's* ranking of the "World's Best Hospitals," executives at leading hospitals around the world told us how they are using the power of AI.

## General News

### **Unexpected Fatality Review Committee Report UFR-23-017**

*Washington State Legislature; 2/27/24*

... The purpose of the unexpected fatality review is to develop recommendations for Department Of Corrections (DOC) and the legislature regarding changes in practices or policies to prevent fatalities and strengthen safety and health protections for incarcerated individuals in DOC's custody. ... Consultative remarks that do not correlate to the cause of death but should be considered for review by the Department of Corrections: DOC should continue implementing the end-of-life care program.& nbsp;

*Editor's Note: We reported on the first end-of-life care / hospice program at Angola Prison and its first volunteer Steven Garner on February 20 (and again in our Sunday's "Most Read" articles on February 25). [Click here for the article.](#)*

### **HCA unveils executive performance incentive pay for 2024**

*Becker's Hospital Review, by Laura Dyrda; 2/27/24*

Nashville, TN-based HCA Healthcare revealed its plans for the 2024 Executive Officer Performance Excellence Program in a Feb. 26 [Form 8-K](#) filed with the SEC. Top executives for the 182-hospital health system will be eligible to earn performance awards based on achieving specific targets, we ighted as:

- 80% for hitting EBITDA targets
- 20% for hitting quality metrics targets



## Non-print News

### **The future of hospice according to Peter (Benjamin)**

*Podcast from TCN Talks with Chris Comeaux and Peter Benjamin; 2/28/24.*

Peter Benjamin, partner at the Huntington Consulting Group, discusses pivotal shifts occurring in hospice care.

*Publisher's note: Peter, as always, provides provocative insights and compelling discussion.*

## Today's Encouragement

**We all require and want respect, man or woman, black or white. It's our basic human right. - Aretha Franklin**

*Editor's Note: Our February Today's Encouragement has honored Black History Month.*

**BONUS: 2024 Black History Month Quotes from "Today's Encouragement"**

*Editor's Note: Click on the link above for a downloadable pdf with quotes that were inspiring for us--and hopefully for you--as we celebrated and learned from 2024's Black History's Month of voices and contributions.*

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