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**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

March 12th, 2024

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Headlines

10 urgent patient safety challenges in 2024

Becker's Clinical Leadership, by Ashleigh Hollowell; 3/11/24

While employment for new clinicians was positive in the last year with 96% of new nurses finding work, the issue is transitioning those clinicians from education into bedside and hospital practice, which is the most pressing safety challenge of 2024, according to the ECRI's [annual report](#) on patient safety.

... Here are the 10 most urgent patient safety challenges facing providers in 2024

...

Hospice Provider News

I have little time left. I hope my goodbye inspires you.

The Washington Post, by Amy Ettinger; 3/9/24

This past summer, at age 49, I was diagnosed with a rare, incurable cancer called leiomyosarcoma. ... My symptoms were getting worse. I had swelling in my abdomen and legs that couldn't be treated. After a while, I could no longer walk up the stairs of my house. I decided I wanted comfort, and this week I made the decision to transition to hospice. After choosing this path, I reflected on some of the things I was able to do since my diagnosis: ... People are often afraid when

they hear the word “hospice,” but for me it’s been a positive experience.

Editor's Note: This inspiring personal story is about choosing hospice care; it is not about Medical Assistance In Dying (MAID). Requires access to The Washington Post.

How changing reproductive health laws could impact perinatal hospice

Hospice News, by Holly Vossel; 3/8/24

Evolutions in reproductive health laws may have reverberating impacts on the demand and delivery of perinatal hospice care. Perinatal hospice care is provided to families choosing to continue a pregnancy following a life-limiting prenatal diagnosis indicating a high risk of mortality before or shortly after birth. This care includes emotional, spiritual and medical support to families navigating the complexities of a terminal illness. Perinatal hospice providers work closely with health care professionals in neonatal intensive care units (NICU) and reproductive health settings.



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'100 Men' group donates \$10K to Oceanside Hospice Society

Parkville Qualicum Beach News; 3/10/24

Men have given more than \$170K to this charity since the group’s inception. At its quarterly meeting on March 6, the 100 Men of Oceanside group awarded \$10,000 to the Oceanside Hospice Society. ... According to a new release, the latest donation from the group will enable the hospice society to launch a new initiative designed to assist men who have suffered the death of a loved one to effectively grieve their loss.

CT bill would create a statewide pediatric hospice program: 'Make this a reality for our children'

The Darien Times, by Cris Villalonga-Vivoni; 3/11/24

There are only a handful of agencies specifically providing end-of-life care to children in the state, said Moss, who is also the founder of Connecticut Children’s Hospital palliative care team, the Sunflower Kids. “Every dying child in the state of

Connecticut deserves this expertise and support of the hospice program," Moss said. "It is time we make this a reality for our children." The need for pediatric hospice care is felt throughout the state, even if the volume of people seeking out these services is often low, said Tracy Wodatch, president and chief executive officer of the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home.

Palliative Care Provider News

NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue opens new Palliative Care Serenity Unit for patients and families

NYC Health+Hospitals Press Release; 3/7/24

NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue today announced the opening of a new Palliative Care Serenity Unit for patients and families. ... "We created the Serenity Unit because we noted an increasing number of patients either spending their dying days at the hospital or in need of extra support and symptom management expertise that palliative care provides," said Susan E. Cohen, MD, director of the Palliative Care Program at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue. "We want to ensure that patients who are here in their final days are being treated with dignity and expertise."

Editor's Note: NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue is the oldest hospital in America, tracing their roots back to 1736 when a six-bed infirmary opened on the second floor of the New York City Almshouse. Today, Bellevue is the medical facility for dignitaries visiting New York City, including the President of the United States and United Nations diplomats.



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Clinical News

Patients with metastatic cancer state more accurate prognosis when in poor health

Medscape / YouTube, Dr. Maurie Markman; 3/7/24

Dr. Maurie Markman discusses a paper focused on the controversial oncology

topic of prognosis beliefs among patients with metastatic cancer.

Editor's Note: For the transcript, click on the link beneath the YouTube's description that has the text "medscape.com/viewarticle."

Palliative care: A compassionate approach for mesothelioma patients

Surviving Mesothelioma, by Holly Zink; 3/10/24

Mesothelioma is a rare and aggressive cancer linked to asbestos exposure. It poses significant challenges to those diagnosed and their loved ones. The disease affects the lining of the lungs (pleura). But it can also occur in the lining of the abdomen (peritoneum) and other organs. Mesothelioma has an average survival rate ranging from 8 to 14 months post-diagnosis. Managing the physical, emotional, and practical aspects of this condition is important.

Some report images and manifestations of departed loved ones

Chicago Daily Herald, by Susan Anderson-Khleif; 3/9/24

Not often, but sometimes, a person sees an image of a beloved or dear friend. A visual manifestation of their spirit, one you can actually see while awake. It could be very clear or more in a fog. It happened to me the middle of the night, two years ago. ... I had friends and readers who've told me of such happenings — of seeing images of dear ones — sometimes during times of stress, sometimes for seemingly no reason. It could be a voice rather than an image. Or some other sign that assures you they are around.&nb sp;

Editor's Note: Susan Anderson-Khleif has a doctorate in family sociology from Harvard, taught at Wellesley College, and is retired.



When health care is woven in our family fabric, we find support in unexpected places

Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Voice, by Suzanne M. Mahon, DNS, RN, AOCN®, AGN-

BC, FAAN; 3/7/24

... We have a built-in support system in our family. We understand all of those feelings and stressors in each other. We just get it. ... Where is your dinner table of support? Who is your go-to person who just gets it and listens? My husband and daughters support me, and I also have friends from nursing school, the workplace, and ONS who support me. They make all the difference in the world. Today, take time to thank your own support team.

Mergers & Aquisition News

Pennsylvania health systems are partnering up

Becker's Hospital Review, by Andrew Cass; 3/8/24

Kittanning, Pa.-based Armstrong County Memorial Hospital signed a definitive agreement March 6 to join Pennsylvania Mountains Care Network, marking the latest in a series of partnerships, mergers and acquisitions between hospitals and health systems in the Keystone State.

Post-Acute Care News

Carolina Caring House Calls breaks down traditional medical care barriers

Salisbury Post, by Julie Brooks; 3/20/24

County residents now have more access to healthcare providers than ever thanks to Carolina Caring House Calls, a home-based medicine program that offers high-quality medical care in the comfort and safety of patients' homes. House Calls is designed to serve patients who face barriers to accessing routine medical care, including disabilities, chronic illnesses, mobility problems and more.



Operating in the red: Half of rural hospitals are losing money, as many cut services

Source NM, by Jazmin Orozoco Rodriguez (KFF Health News); 3/7/24
As half of rural hospitals lose money, many are cutting services.

Seniors more likely to let conditions escalate into emergency if their only care options are digital, poll finds

McKnights Senior Living, by Aaron Dorman; 3/7/24

Although residents in senior living communities and nursing homes are becoming more accepting of artificial intelligence and other tools such as remote monitoring systems, that doesn't mean they don't still strongly prefer human caregivers to manage their healthcare needs, a recent poll finds. ... Among older adult survey respondents who had dealt with a recent emergency, 33% said that they felt as if the incident could have been averted if they had had access to a live, in-person caregiver to manage their health concerns and needs.

Technology / Innovations News

US officials call on UnitedHealth to accelerate payments to providers

The United Business Journal, by Rahul Kumar; 3/11/24

In a recent open letter, officials from the U.S. government expressed urgency for UnitedHealth Group to expedite payments to healthcare providers. This plea came in the wake of a debilitating cyberattack on the insurer's Change Healthcare tech unit, which severely disrupted medical claims processing and payments. The U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services emphasized the critical need for UnitedHealth to take swift action to ensure that healthcare providers do not face financial strain due to the cyberattack.

General News

Detroit Lions fan who dyed his hair blue during playoff run has died

CBS News 11 Detroit, by Sara Powers; 3/11/24

A Detroit Lions fan in hospice care, who dyed his hair blue during the team's playoff run, has died. Larry Benjamin, 83, of Saginaw, went viral after he dyed his hair Honolulu blue to support the Lions. He was inspired by Lions wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown, who dyed his hair blue before the team's playoff game

against the Los Angeles Rams.

Editor's Note: We ran a couple of updates to this story during the NFL playoffs.

Opportunity uncovered: How COVID-19 accelerated healthcare transformation

Managed Healthcare Executive; by Patrick Horine, MHA; 3/6/24

The COVID-19 pandemic left an indelible mark on the healthcare landscape, spotlighting critical areas for improvement while accelerating transformations that were already underway. From addressing disparities in equity and access to adopting digital health strategies, the pandemic has forced healthcare to move swiftly to meet urgent needs. First, let us look at some of the issues we had been facing and how these were changed by the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic. ...

- Healthcare equity and access ...
- Digital health strategies ...
- Acknowledgment of mental health parity ...
- Staffing ...
- Healthcare trends in response to change ...
- Embracing opportunities to leverage trends ...

Smaller wage increases predicted for 2024: survey

McKnights Senior Living, by Kathleen Steele Gaivin; 3/8/24

Wage increases for senior living and care employees are predicted to dip from 4.43% in 2023 to 3.64% this year, according to responses to a newly released Ziegler CFO Hotline survey. The news comes as providers continue to be challenged in recruiting and retaining workers, with compensation as one strategy.

How NYC Health + Hospitals is reining in travel nurse expenses

Becker's Hospital CFO Report, by Mackenzie Bean; 3/7/24

NYC Health + Hospitals has made progress in decreasing its dependence on travel nurses, though staffing expenditures still exceed the public health system's allocated budget, executives told New York City Council leaders during a preliminary budget hearing March 5.

Education

Compass Park chosen as hospice training site

Daily Journal, by Ryan Trares; 3/8/24

Compass Park has been chosen to be a hospice training site for Affinity Care of Indiana, which partners with the facility to provide hospice care. Those pursuing work in hospice will come to the Franklin campus to observe the compassion provided to patients and families experiencing an end-of-life journey. "In this place, we want our future hospice nurses and aides to experience the legacy that resides here at Compass Park, a legacy for all health care professionals who have the privilege of working within these walls," said John Young, executive director of Affinity Care.

International News

Roscommon nurse sets out on epic cycle to Australia

Roscommon Herald; 3/10/24

A 25-year-old County Roscommon nurse set out on his 23,000km cycle from his home in Arigna to Australia this morning, Sunday, March 10th. Fergal Guihen began his 23,000km cycle from Roscommon to Australia this morning. It will take him a total of 11 months to complete the challenge. Fergal, a general nurse at Sligo General Hospital, will reach Australia in February of 2025. In the process, he's raising funds for Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation.

Editor's Note: 23,000km = 14,300 miles. This translates to approximately 5.12 bike rides between New York City and Los Angeles.

Today's Encouragement

Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going. - Jim Rohn

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