

## Cordt Kassner

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## March 17th, 2024

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

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## Headlines

### **Rising suicide risk among seniors due to loneliness, mobility, financial insecurity, study finds**

*McKnights Home Care, by Adam Healy; 3/5/24*

As the number of adults over 65 continues to grow, suicide rates among older adults have also been rising, according to [data](#) from the National Center for Health Statistics. Between 2008 and 2017, the share of suicide-related emergency department visits among adults 65 years and older [more than doubled](#). These older adults face age-related stressors that can negatively affect mental health, such as declining physical health, reduced mental sharpness, or the loss of friends or loved ones, which can heighten the risk of suicide.

### **CMS hears you, hospice providers**

*McKnights Home Care, by Liza Berger; 3/8/24*

Rarely does the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services succeed in shocking us. The large bureaucracy, which is not exactly known for its nimbleness, managed to do so this week when it abruptly cancelled the hospice component of the Value-Based Insurance Design Model. ... For those who wonder whether advocacy works, I'd chalk this up to a [win](#) for providers — and a clear example of advocacy in action.

### **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 ...

## **Why home care leaders are now banking on 'Caregiver-First' cultures**

*Home Health Care News, by Patrick Filbin; 3/4/24*

Over the last several years, a notable trend is emerging in home care: Top-tier companies are shifting their focus from prioritizing customers to prioritizing caregivers. This strategic move reflects a growing recognition of the critical role caregivers play, and aims to address persistent caregiver shortages.

## **Jimmy Carter has spent over a year in hospice care. How has he defied the odds?**

*Northeastern Global News, by Tanner Stening; 3/12/24*

End-of-life advocates and experts cite Carter's stay in hospice as having a positive impact on the discourse of end-of-life care, which Northeastern University experts say many people put off until it's too late. ... According to the National Institutes of Health, more than 90% of patients who enter hospice care die within the first six months. Roughly 36% of patients die within a week of entering hospice.

*Editor's Note: This article includes an important, transparent piece of information that many articles about President Carter's 1-year hospice anniversary have not mentioned: "If the patient lives past six months, the medical professionals would need to recertify the patient for continued care." [Click here for the CMS "Face-to-Face Requirement Affecting Hospice Recertification."](#)*

## **Johns Hopkins study reveals medical marijuana lowers pain, hospital visits**

*BNN, by Wojciech Zylm; 3/5/24*

Recent research highlights significant improvements in well-being for cannabis users, offering hope for those with chronic illnesses. The study showcases a potential shift in the perception and utilization of medical cannabis in healthcare.



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## **Why I chose palliative care: A nurse's personal journey to providing comfort care**

*Anschutz, by Lauren Carter; 3/5/24*

My interest in palliative care started with my grandma's use of hospice services seventeen years ago. She suffered with multiple sclerosis for over forty years. ... What may have been a terrible experience for most people was actually made very positive for me. ... Unfortunately, I had another opportunity fifteen years later, to once again be there for my family in this way. ... It takes empathy and specialized training to assist in end-of-life care. It may be something that we are called to. I care deeply about these patients and their families. I am able to have difficult conversations when necessary. I try to create space for family members to talk about who the person in the hospital bed is, when that person can no longer talk for themselves. ...

## **'It's been really inspiring': Grace House continues end-of-life care despite challenges**

*Akron Beacon Journal, by Kelsie Horner; 3/13/24*

Through a flood and financial challenges, [an Akron nonprofit](#) has continued to provide end-of-life care and companionship for people who might otherwise die alone. Since opening its doors 12 years ago, [Grace House](#) has cared for 66 residents during their final days. ... Grace House is one of only three organizations in the nation to provide free, "non-barrier" end-of-life care for people who are unhoused or alone.

## **Home Care costs continue to increase, outpacing other long-term care settings**

*Home Health Care News, by Andrew Donlan; 3/12/24*

The pricing increases in home care have again outpaced other long-term care sectors, according to Genworth's annual cost of care report.



## **Colorado Senate passes bill to shorten 'Medical-Aid-in-Dying' waiting period**

*Colorado Newsline, by Sara Wilson; 3/8/24*

The Colorado Senate approved a bill Friday that would alter the state's medical aid-in-dying law by shortening the required waiting period and allowing more medical professionals to prescribe the medication. ... Senate Bill 24-68 would tweak the law by shortening the waiting period between a patient's first and second request for the medication from 15 to seven days. ... Statistics from Denver Health's medical aid-in-dying program show that about 1 in 4 patients died from their illness during the current 15-day waiting period... The bill would also allow advanced practice registered nurses to prescribe the medication... The bill was amended in committee to reinstate a Colorado residency requirement.

## **Today's Encouragement**

### **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face.  
And rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.  
~Traditional Irish Blessing



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