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March 23rd, 2024

Saturday newsletters focus on research - enjoy!

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Headlines

Home Health and Hospice Coalition questions and Answers, February 5, 2024

Palmetto GBA, email 3/22/24

7 Nonprofit hospices form Integrity Care Partners palliative care venture

Hospice News, by Jim Parker; 3/22/24

A group of seven nonprofit hospices has launched a palliative care organization branded as Integrity Care Partners. The founding organizations are each members of the Texas Nonprofit Hospice Alliance, a regional collaborative of which Integrity Care Partners is an extension. The partnerships' seven initial members include Community Healthcare of Texas, Hospice Austin, Home Hospice of Grayson County, the Hospice of East Texas, Hospice of El Paso, Hospice in the Pines and Hospice of Wichita Falls.

Notable mentions: Kirsti Krejs, Texas Nonprofit Hospice Alliance; Viki Jingle, Community Healthcare of Texas.

Research News

Mortality risk following end-of-life caregiving: A population-based analysis of hospice users and their families

Social Science & Medicine, by Mike Hollingshaus, Ken R. Smith, Huong Meeks, Katherine Ornstein, Eli Iacob, Djin Tay, Caroline Stephens, Rebecca L. Utz; 3/24

Highlights:

- Exposure to end-of-life caregiving may increase mortality risk for surviving family.

- Longer hospice duration and being the only nearby family member are risk factors.
- Gender and relationship type (child or spouse) modify survivors' mortality risk.
- Having more family members is protective against survivors' mortality risk.
- Having a spouse with dementia is particularly risky for surviving widows' health.



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State of the service: Pediatric palliative and hospice community-based service coverage in the United States

Journal of Palliative Medicine, by Meaghann S. Weaver, MD, PhD, MPH, HEC-C; Tej Chana; Deb Fisher, PPCNP; Hope Fost; Betsy Hawley, MA; Kristin James, LCPC; Lisa C. Lindley, PhD, RN, FPCN, FAAN; Kaeli Samson, MA, MPH; Steven M. Smith, MD; Alix Ware, JD, MPH; and Christy Torkildson, PhD, RN, PHN; 11/23

Objective: To quantify and describe the inclusion of children in services, staffing, and care scope offered by community-based hospice organizations in the United States. Design and Subjects: This study utilized an online survey distributed to organizational members of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in the United States. Results: A total of 481 hospice organizations from 50 states, Washington DC, and Puerto Rico responded. Conclusions: Children remain underrepresented in the extension of care offered through community-based hospice organizations in the United States particularly in nonmetro settings.

Book Review: The Journey's End

American Journal of Medical Quality, by Casey, Donald E. Jr MD, MPH, MBA; 3/24
 Michael Connelly's "The Journey's End" is a highly engaging and insightful guide for both ourselves and our loved ones on how we ought to face death with dignity.

Psychedelic therapy: A primer for primary care clinicians - psilocybin

American Journal of Therapeutics, by Burton J Tabaac, Kenneth Shinozuka, Alejandro Arenas, Bryce D Beutler, Kirsten Cherian, Viviana D Evans, Chelsey Fasano, Owen S Muir; 3/24

Aside from ketamine, psilocybin is the most clinically well-researched psychedelic drug, with trials that have enrolled hundreds of participants and multiple therapeutic applications. Phase III trials will determine whether psilocybin lives up to the promise that it showed in previous clinical trials.



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The determinants of actual place of death among noncancer patients with end-stage chronic health conditions: a scoping review

Palliative Care and Social Practice, by Sangduan Ginggeaw and Raeann LeBlanc; 3/24

This scoping review describes the percentage of actual places of death and determines social factors related to home as the place of death among noncancer patients with end-stage chronic health conditions.

Publisher's note: While this study did not establish clear cause-and-effect relationships between factors, the authors used interesting methods and included thoughtful discussion.

Racial Disparities in low-value care in the last year of life for Medicare beneficiaries with neurodegenerative disease

Neurology Clinical Practice, by Margarethe E. Goetz, PhD, PA-C; Cassie B. Ford, PhD; Melissa A. Greiner, MS; Amy Clark, PhD; Kim G. Johnson, MD; Brystana G. Kaufman, MD; Sneha Mantri, MD, MS; Ying Xian, MD, PhD; Richard J. O'Brien, MD, PhD; Emily C. O'Brien, PhD; and Jay B. Lusk, MD, MBA; 4/24

We found racial disparities in care utilization among patients with neurodegenerative disease in the last year of life, such that Black decedents were more likely to receive specific low-value care services and less likely to receive high-value supportive care than White decedents, even after adjusting for health status and socioeconomic factors.

Transitions between skilled home health and hospice for persons living with dementia: a systematic review of literature

Annals of Palliative Medicine, by Sharon E. Bigger, Robin Ann Foreman, Christiana Keinath, Gail L. Towsley; 3/24

We found that persons living with dementia are at higher risk for early, unsuccessful discharge from-and readmission to-skilled skilled home health; and persons living with dementia are at higher risk for being discharged alive from hospice.



International News

Health care worker education for palliative care in Africa: Narrative Review

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, by Claire Beecher, MD; David Holmes, MD; 3/14

[Africa] The demand for palliative care for terminally ill patients is rising globally. This review examines the potential of health worker education to enhance palliative care in Africa... The integration of palliative care into public health systems is important for the sustainability of end-of-life care for terminally ill patients in Africa and around the world.

Publisher's note: One cannot help but be reminded of the important work of the [Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa](#). The need remains...

What contributes to promote sexual health in cancer palliative care? A realist review

Sexual Medicine Reviews, by Donz Roxane, Russia Bruno, Barbaret Cécile, Debbie Braybrook, Perceau-Chambard Elise, Reverdy Thibaut, Economos Guillaume; 3/24

[France, UK] Of the 2056 articles identified, 38 articles were included in the review. The data reported in these articles contributed to 7 CMO hypotheses: (1)

improving communication skills, (2) healthcare provider training, (3) reorganizing the patient environment in care settings or at home, (4) managing sexual symptoms and also general symptoms, (5 and 6) patient-centered counseling or couple counseling, and (7) lifting the taboo.

Empowering young voices: Navigating the complexities of minors in healthcare decisions

European Journal of Pediatrics, by J Peter de Winter, Jaan Toelen, Gregorio Paolo Milani; 3/24

[Netherlands, Belgium, Italy] The inclusion of children in healthcare decisions is a crucial element that requires attention to ethical, legal, and psychological considerations. Balancing autonomy with welfare interests and parental involvement is a significant challenge in pediatric healthcare ethics.



Today's Encouragement

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. ~Winston Churchill

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