

## Cordt Kassner

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TODAY**

## March 31st, 2024

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

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## Headlines

### **Hearing with Health and Human Services Secretary Becerra**

*House Ways and Means Committee*

*Publisher's note: CA Representatives Steel (@ 4:01) and Van Duyne (@ 4:14) ask pointed questions of Secretary Becerra regarding hospice fraud, particularly focused on Southern California. Thanks to Sheila Clark, [California Hospice & Palliative Care Association](#), for sharing this link. Also, yesterday (3/20/24) Judi Lund Person, [Lund Person & Associates Hospice Consulting](#), presented on this specific topic at the [Nebraska Hospice & Palliative Care Association Annual Conference](#).*

### **CAHPS Hospice Survey - Quality Assurance Guidelines V10.0: Technical Corrections and Clarifications, March 2024**

*HospiceCahpsSurvey.org; 3/20/24*

Subsequent to the release of the CAHPS Hospice Survey Quality Assurance Guidelines V10.0 (QAG V10.0), it has been determined that there is a specific content item that requires correction, addition and/or further clarification. The protocol listed in this document replace the previous release of the content in the CAHPS Hospice Survey Quality Assurance Guidelines V10.0. The items are identified [in the pdf available at the title's link].

### **Home-focused PACE model continues to gain traction across US**

*Home Health Care News, by Joyce Famakinwa; 3/19/24*

A Georgia House Bill that would create a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) was passed by the state senate earlier this month. House Bill 1078 passed in a 49 to 1 senate vote.

Specifically, the bill creates a new adult day center licensure exclusion in order to authorize the Department of Community Health to establish and implement

PACE in Georgia as part of the state's medical assistance program. The Department of Community Health would manage the program.



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## **Hospice group pushes for clarity in N.Y. state budget as some warm to for-profit care**

*Spectrum News 1; by Susan Arbetter; 3/19/24*

New York state has the lowest utilization of hospice in the country, which can be attributed to several factors, including low health literacy rates. But the state's recent progress in support of end-of-life care may be threatened by something even more insidious: corporate greed. To investigate that issue nationally, a joint request for information was issued by the federal Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Trade Commission into private equity-backed health care and its impact on quality. Yet despite dire warnings, New York state is slowly opening the door to for-profit, private equity-backed hospice care.

## **Student-run Arizona non-profit uses origami to connect with hospital [and hospice] patients**

*The State Press, by Pippa Fung; 3/19/24*

The Wishing Crane Project, founded by Arizona student Charles Zhang, serves hospice and hospital patients through art. In the story of Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes, a young girl tried to fold 1,000 paper cranes in the hopes that it would help her push through a terminal illness. Years later, students across Arizona and at ASU are folding their own cranes [and writing hopeful messages] to support others through their difficult journeys.

*Editor's Note: To Hospice Volunteer Directors/Managers, do you receive requests from high school students/groups requesting community service hours? [Click here for The Wishing Crane Project.](#)*

## **How the analytics of care can balance workforce capacity**

*MedCity News, by Derek Streat; 3/19/24*

U.S. healthcare is experiencing a supply and demand crisis as it races to keep pace with an aging population amidst a workforce shortage and mounting financial pressures. And the situation appears unlikely to improve anytime soon. In fact, recent projections anticipate a shortfall of 139,000 physicians in the next decade, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. One limiting factor preventing the efficient management of workforce resources is a lack of data interoperability. ...



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### **36 rural hospitals have closed since 2020**

*Becker's Hospital CFO Report, by Alan Condon; 3/21/24*

The closures highlight the heightened financial challenges that rural hospitals face amid persisting workforce shortages, rising costs and leveling reimbursement. In addition, only 45% of rural hospitals now offer labor and delivery services, and in 10 states, less than 33% do, according to the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform. [Listed in the article] are the 36 rural hospitals that closed since 2020, beginning with the most recent.

### **Deal or No Deal: The futures of 3 home-based care companies**

*Home Health Care News; by Andrew Donlan; 3/21/24*

Most buyers in home health and personal care are signaling they'll be more active in the M&A market this year. There are three major home-based care deals that have happened, or may happen, in the near-term future. All of them could have significant ripple effects.

### **Top 10 patient safety threats of 2024: Helping new clinicians, maternal care barriers, AI, and more**

*Chief Healthcare Executive, by Ron Southwick; 3/21/24*

When ECRI unveiled its list of the leading threats to patient safety for 2024, some items are likely to be expected, such as physician burnout, delays in care due to drug shortages or falls in the hospital. However, ECRI, a nonprofit group focused

on patient safety, placed one item atop all others: the challenges in helping new clinicians move from training to caring for patients. ... ECRI's top 10 threats to patient safety for 2024:

1. Transitioning new clinicians from education into practice
2. Workarounds with barcode medication administration systems
3. Barriers to access to maternal care
4. Unintended consequences of technology adoption, including AI
5. Decline in physical and emotional well-being of healthcare workers
6. Complexity of preventing diagnostic error
7. Ensuring equitable care for patients with physical and intellectual disabilities
8. Care delays due to drug, supply, and equipment shortages
9. Misuse of parenteral syringes to administer oral liquid medications
10. Continued challenges with preventing patient falls



### **[Mississippi] Doctors plead with Senate to 'do right' and expand Medicaid**

*Mississippi Today, by Sophia Paffenroth; 3/21/24*

... "I'm calling on the Senate to do right and to come up with a mechanism by which these people can have coverage," Dr. Randy Easterling, former president of the Mississippi State Medical Association, said. Easterling recounted the story of one working Mississippian named Jimmy who delayed seeking treatment and was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a type of cancer. He is now on hospice and "probably has two to three weeks to live," Easterling said.

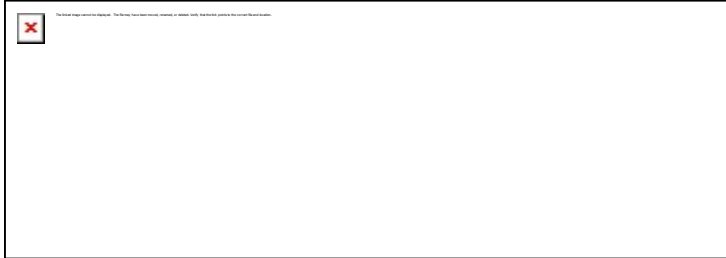
### **HHS Secretary Becerra: We're with you on telehealth flexibilities**

*Hospice News, by Jim Parker; 3/21/24*

Telehealth flexibilities must become permanent U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra indicated in a congressional hearing [Wed]. At the end of this year, telehealth flexibilities implemented during the pandemic are slated to expire. In a hearing before the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee Becerra said that HHS was willing to make them permanent. However, he said this would require closer collaboration with state governments. "We're with you.

We can't allow those flexibilities to expire, and we need to work closer with our state partners, because much of the flexibility that comes from telehealth means being able to go over state lines," Becerra said.

## Did You Know?



### Hospice & Palliative Care Today - 2024 Q1 Stats!

Hospice & Palliative Care Today publication officially began 1/1/24, building on Mark Cohen's work with *Hospice News Today*. Our first quarter has been incredibly successful!

- 1,500 subscribers across 49 states!
- 56% of subscribers have 10+ years of hospice & palliative care experience!
- 1,500 news stories ran with 130,000 reads and 345,000 impressions!
- Top read news categories included Hospice Provider News and Headlines!
- 5 Sponsors (thank you!) averaged 4,800 clicks and 29,000 impressions / month!

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## Today's Encouragement

Happy Easter!



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