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**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

April 3rd, 2024

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Hospice Provider News

[A pilot of a Telehealth-Hospice transition intervention for children and young adults with cancer](#)

Journal of Pain and Symptom Management; by Nicholas P DeGroot, Ebonee Harris, Anna Lange, Karen Wasilewski-Masker, James L Klosky, Joanne Wolfe, Dio Kavalieratos, Katharine E Brock; 3/31/24, online ahead of print

Conclusions: Participants found coordinated telehealth visits to be feasible, acceptable, and satisfactory. Telehealth may be utilized as an acceptable alternative to clinic visits and fosters hospital-hospice collaboration.

[Hospice facility "House of Goshen" opening in Flossmoor in April](#)

Crusader Staff; 3/29/24

House of Goshen has announced a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new 14-bed, 14,000-square-foot inpatient Hospice House, scheduled for Thursday, April 11, at 4 p.m. The facility broke ground at 19810 Governors Highway in March 2023. The upcoming April ceremony marks a milestone in the organization's commitment to enhancing end-of-life care in the Village of Flossmoor, Illinois. ... The new facility will operate under the umbrella of Oasis Hospice.

Clinical News

“Personhood,” not “Patienthood”: Tips on dignity-conserving practice in palliative care

IAHPC, by Kim Adzich, MD; 4/1/24

One of Dame Cicely Saunders’ foundational tenets of palliative care is embodied in her words, “You matter because you are you, and you matter until the last moment of your life.” Dignity is the inherent worthiness of being human, of mattering until that last breath. But how do we ensure that we reflect that inherent dignity back to those in our care? Dr. Harvey Max Chochinov, having dedicated decades to researching and teaching dignity-conserving care, ... [offers] a few thoughts on how we can foster that sense of dignity and uniqueness in those we care for as they near the end of life.



Accelerate Results
Accelerate Growth
Accelerate Learning

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Palliative and hospice care in hospitals and clinics: the good, the bad, and the ugly

MedPageToday's KevinMD.com; by Earl Stewart, Jr., MD and Miguel Villagra, MD; 4/1/24

I walk into the patient’s hospital room during evening rounds. He looks pale and tired, having recently completed a round of chemotherapy for his stage IV pancreatic cancer. His wife is at the bedside, scared and concerned about her husband’s rapid decline. I sit down to discuss goals of care when the patient immediately says, “I can’t do this anymore.” His wife responds immediately to the patient: “Of course you can.” ...

People in this state Googled ‘medical marijuana’ the most, study shows

Forbes, by Benjamin Adams; 3/29/24

How inquisitive are people in your state about medical cannabis? A recent analysis aims to find out—ranking states according to the number of Google searches for “medical marijuana” and other related keywords. ... The

original [study](#), “Which States Are The Most Obsessed With Medical Marijuana In 2024?” illustrates the levels of curiosity in each state, and some of the findings are unexpected.

Should we be using palliative care for scleroderma?

The Medical Republic, by Karina Bray; 4/2/24

Almost three-quarters of systemic sclerosis patients could benefit from specialist palliative care, according to Australian research. The first-of-a-kind study, published in *Arthritis Care & Research*, set out to examine and quantify the need for palliative care to address high symptom burden as an integrated part of systemic sclerosis management. ... “Almost 75% of SSc patients may benefit from specialist palliative care input to manage specific severe symptoms, and the overlapping nature of such symptoms highlights the complex symptom management needs of SSc patients,” the authors wrote.



How to look after your mental health while packing up Mum or Dad’s home

The Conversation, 3/31/24

So Mum or Dad has died, or moved to aged care, and now you’ve got to pack up their house. It’s a huge job and you’re dreading it. It’s normal to feel grief, loss, guilt, exhaustion or even resentment at being left with this job. So how can you look after your mental health while tackling the task?

Regulatory News

CMS finalizes 2025 Medicare Advantage rates

Becker's Payer Issues, by Rylee Wilson; 4/1/24

CMS finalized a slight decrease in Medicare Advantage benchmark payments for 2025. The agency published its final rate notice for 2025 April 1. The final rule was largely similar to CMS' proposed payment rates issued in January. The agency will cut benchmark payments by 0.16% from 2024 to 2025. CMS estimated plans will see 3.7% higher revenue overall in 2025. MA risk score trend of 3.86% — the average increase in risk adjustment payments year over year —

will offset risk model revisions that will lead to a 2.45% decline in revenue and a projected decline in star rating bonuses, according to the agency.

Public Policy News

[Maine] Senate backs safe staffing bill with aim to increase patient safety, decrease nurse burnout

Main Morning Star, by Lauren McCauley; 3/27/24

If passed, Maine would be the second state in the country to institute nurse-to-patient ratios. ... Sen. Stacy Brenner (D-Cumberland), who sponsored the bill, shared with the chamber her experience as a nurse and how the stress of being understaffed can contribute to burnout and what she described as “moral distress.” ... Brenner said the bill accomplishes two goals: increasing patient safety and increasing nurse retention.



Mergers & Acquisition News

FTC continues to challenge \$320M Novant, CHS deal

Becker's Hospital Review; by Naomi Diaz; 3/29/24

The Federal Trade Commission [filed](#) court documents on March 25 seeking a preliminary injunction to bar Winston-Salem, NC-based Novant Health from its \$320 million acquisition of two North Carolina hospitals from Franklin, TN-based Community Health Systems. According to court documents filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, the FTC alleged that Novant Health's proposed acquisition ... would "irreversibly consolidate the market for hospital services in the Eastern Lake Norman Area in the northern suburbs of Charlotte."

After Empath Health, Trustbridge complete affiliation, 'Home Health is high on priority list'

Home Health Care News, by Andrew Donlan; 4/1/24

Last September, the post-acute providers Empath Health and Trustbridge signed a memorandum of understanding to begin an affiliation process. On Monday, that affiliation process was completed, forming the largest nonprofit post-acute provider organization in the state of Florida. Together, the organization will care for 5,000 patients daily and employ more than 5,000 staff members and 3,000 volunteers.

Post-Acute Care News

The Workforce Management Playbook: How Mercy is empowering nurses, saving premium labor costs + improving care

Becker's Hospital Review in collaboration with Trusted Health; 3/29/24

At Becker's 11th Annual CEO + CFO Roundtable, in a session sponsored by Trusted Health, two leaders from Mercy (St. Louis) — Cheryl Matejka, CFO, and Betty Jo Rocchio, DNP, senior vice president and system chief nursing officer — discussed how the right workforce management platform can help organizations redesign their staffing models in tune with nurses' evolving needs, while saving costs and improving operational efficiency. In Mercy's presentation to over roughly 100 hospital executives there were three major themes.

1. In the post-pandemic era, organizations must strive for a multi-generational staffing model redesign ...
2. Successfully redesigning the staffing model requires transforming 4 key elements ...
3. Increasing flexibility and autonomy in staffing translates to cost, time + FTE savings ...



HOSPICE ANALYTICS

TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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Northwell hospital nurses cancel strike

Becker's Hospital Review, by Kelly Gooch; 4/1/24

Members of the New York State Nurses Association have **called off** a planned April 2 strike at New York City-based Staten Island University Hospital after reaching a tentative agreement with management on a new labor contract. The union represents 1,300 workers at the facility. ... SIUH is part of New Hyde Park, NY-based Northwell Health, a 21-hospital system with more than 85,000 employees total. ... The agreement "adds nurse staffing on units that need help"; includes an expedited process for creating staffing standards in new units; and features wage increases that total 22.12% over three years and include annual pay increases, market adjustment pay, and experience pay, the union said.

LTC planning's power lies in relationships, not revenue

Insurance NewsNet, by John McWilliams; 4/1/24

Long-term care planning is having a moment right now. There was a time when conversations with clients about their long-term care needs were like pulling teeth. No one wants to confront the point in their lives at which they will no longer be able to do the things they associate with independent life as an adult. Long-term care was a talk to have with people in their 60s. Now, I have those talks with folks in their 40s and 50s. What happened?

Technology / Innovations News

Hospital struggles to restore MyChart months after cyberattack

Becker's Health IT, by Giles Bruce; 4/1/24

Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago is still trying to restore its MyChart patient portal two months after a cyberattack took its systems offline. ... The organization was **struck** by a "known criminal threat actor" and disconnected its

IT and phone systems Jan. 31. A hacking group later [claimed](#) it sold the hospital's data for \$3.4 million. Lurie Children's has since restored its phones, email and EHR, but has been [working](#) to reinstate MyChart for weeks.

Ethics

Ethical conflicts: Making care decisions when the right choice isn't clear

Medical Economics, by Jeff Bendix; 3/29/24

What should a physician do when their ethical training conflicts with the circumstances or needs of a particular situation or patient? ... Ethical battlegrounds are growing. [Dr. Melissa] Lucarelli's experience epitomizes, in a small way, a problem with which doctors have grappled for as long as medicine has existed as a profession: what to do when their ethical training conflicts with the circumstances or needs of a particular situation or patient. That question has taken on new urgency in recent years due to several converging trends.

Some prepaid funeral expenses to southern Colorado funeral home being investigated

CBS TV 11 News, by Melissa Henry; 3/29/24

A man and his wife wonder whether or not they will ever get more than \$7,000 dollars back for prepaid funeral expenses after paying Return to Nature Funeral Home. Jon and Carie Hallford are at the center of [an investigation](#) in which they are accused of abuse of a corpse, money laundering, theft, and forgery after officials say 189 bodies were found improperly stored at a building tied to the couple's business in Penrose.

General News

Couple marries at Iowa River Hospice to share day with dying grandfather

Times-Republican, by Sara Jordan-Heintz; 3/20/24

It takes a village to coordinate a last-minute wedding, and in the case of Madeline and Quinton Ward, it also took a hospice house. The couple wed at Iowa River Hospice on Monday, February 26 so her grandfather Roger Bauder could officiate. "I wanted our favorite person — my grandfather — to marry us," Maddie said. "We were blessed to have lots of family and close friends at his side."

Instead of an elegy for my dying brother

Santa Cruz Sentinel, by Stephen Kessler; 3/31/24

Week before last I wrote about my elder brother Bruce, the racing driver, film director, deep-sea fisher, boat designer and global circumnavigator, who was on the last laps of his extraordinary life. ... I found him at home in hospice care, in a hospital bed by the big slider off the balcony in his seventh-floor apartment in Marina Del Rey with a lovely view of the marina and all its pretty white boats with their slender masts afloat on the dark-blue water. ...

Man with chainsaw assaults Vermont hospital workers, destroys property

Becker's Hospital Review, by Madeline Ashley; 4/1/24

A man was taken into custody by Vermont State Police after assaulting staff and destroying property with a chainsaw at St. Johnsbury-based Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital. State troopers apprehended Tyler Roy, 27, on March 25 in the hospital parking lot "actively assaulting staff," according to a March 31 Vermont State Police news release. Mr. Roy was taken into custody and is cited to appear in Caledonia County Superior Court on April 6.

International News

Global Medical Tourism Report 2024: Numbers, prospects and problems

Business Wire; 4/1/24

Medical tourism has been touted as the next big thing for many years. ... Medical tourism refers to the practice of individuals traveling across borders to receive medical treatment or healthcare services. ... This global phenomenon has gained significant traction in recent years due to various factors such as cost savings, high-quality healthcare facilities, and accessibility to advanced medical treatments.

Editor's Note: The term "medical tourism" appears increasingly in our searches for newsletter articles. We encourage to become familiar with this practice, in case might apply to patients your organization serves.

Today's Encouragement

Sometimes it is the people no one can imagine anything of who do the things no one can imagine. - Alan Turing

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