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April 7th, 2024

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

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Headlines

[Mortality, hospice use rates differ in assisted living communities depending on whether memory care is offered](#)

McKnights Senior Living, by Kimberly Bonvissuto; 4/4/24

Assisted living communities that provide memory care services may attract residents closer to the end of life or promote [hospice](#) use at the end of life compared with assisted living communities without such services, according to the findings of a new study. ... Researchers from the Brown University School of Public Health, the University of Melbourne and the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing examined whether end-of-life outcomes — mortality and hospice use — differed between assisted living facilities with and without memory care services among 15,152 residents who moved into larger communities between 2016 and 2018.

Editor's Note: [Click here for the source article, "Do end-of-life outcomes differ by assisted living memory-care designation?"](#)

[Fostering respect and appreciation seen as keys to retaining direct care workers](#)

McKnights Online Forum, by Kimberly Bonvissuto; 3/27/24

Expressions of appreciation and respect can go a long way in addressing senior living's direct care [workforce](#) crisis, according to a panel of direct workers and employers who addressed what makes employees want to stay — or go. ... Nate Hamme, president and executive director of the Ceca Foundation, ... said that the most important part of employee recognition is listening to people. ... He added that there is a science to recognition backed by research into what motivates people and implementing programs around that. ... Recognition programs, Hamme added, should focus on IMPACT: inclusive, mission-aligned, public, authentic, consistent and timely.

What home health providers need to know about the Medicare TPE Audit Process

Home Health Care News, by Joyce Famakinwa; 4/2/24

... TPE is a medical review program that began for the home health and hospice settings in December 2017. The goal of the program is to weed out improper payments by zeroing-in on providers with high claims denial rates or unusual billing practices. ... TPE has three pillars. Target refers to errors or mistakes that are identified through data in comparison to providers or peers. Probe is the examination of 20 to 40 claims. ... Education means helping providers reduce claim denials and appeals through one-on-one individualized education.



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[Utilization] Hospice care for those with dementia falls far short of meeting people's needs at the end of life

The Conversation, Maria J Silveira, University of Michigan; 4/1/24

... Strikingly, only 12% of Americans with dementia ever enroll in hospice. Among those who do, one-third are near death. This is in stark contrast to the cancer population: Patients over 60 with cancer enroll in hospice 70% of the time. In my experience caring for dementia patients, the underuse of hospice by dementia patients has more to do with how hospice is structured and paid for in the U.S. than it does patient preference or differences between cancer and dementia.

April 21-27, 2024 National Volunteer Week: NHPCO's outreach suggestions & recognition ideas

NHPCO website, for April 21-27, 2024

The U.S. hospice movement was founded by dedicated volunteers and volunteer commitment continues to be a core part of the Medicare Hospice Benefit today. This National Volunteer Week, April 21 – 27, 2024, we're shining a light on the dedicated, compassionate volunteers who brighten the lives of the patients and families we collectively serve.

Editor's Note: Download and use NHPCO's pdf for numerous In-Person Recognition Ideas and Virtual Recognition Ideas.

Bereaved Parent Support Study: Seeking Participants

Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center/University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, St. Jude Children's Hospital, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; 4/2/24

This program is offered as a research study examining three types of support for bereaved parents who have lost a child to cancer. This is a National Institutes of Health-funded trial taking place at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center/University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, St. Jude Children's Hospital, and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; however, families need not have received care from one of these institutions. ... For those assigned to receive counseling, services will be provided through videoconferencing, and all study activities can be completed from the participant's home. ... There will be no charge for any support offered through the study. ... [Click on the title's link for more information.]

Editor's Note: If your hospice does not have bereavement services tailored to the needs of parents who have lost a child, consider this opportunity for free support from these reputable sources. Click on the title's link for eligibility requirements and descriptions.



How's Your Soul?

JAMA Network, by David Vermette, MD, MBA, MHS; 3/28/24

"Brother David, how's your soul?" The question took me by surprise. It was time for my first advisement meeting with my residency program director. In medicine, the machine runs on competence and achievement of "milestones." Yet, as I braced for a meeting to trudge through performance evaluations and in-training exam scores, I awoke to humanity. ... Medical education has numerous models for coaching, advising, and mentoring. While these models helped develop my professional life, they missed the fundamental core of who I am: a

human being. Perhaps instead we could embrace a model in medical education built on the tenets of pastoral care. ...

- Healing ...
- Sustaining ...
- Guiding ...
- Reconciling ...

Home care providers hail bill establishing standard classification for direct support workers

McKnights Home Care, by Adam Healy; 4/3/24

The Senate last week passed legislation that would address the dire shortage of direct support workers with the establishment of a classification to help stakeholders collect workforce data. Specifically, if signed into law, the Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act would require the Office of Management and Budget to consider establishing a standard occupational classification (SOC) for direct support professionals (DSPs). This classification would make it easier for policymakers to gather useful data about these workers and help them better address critical workforce challenges.

9 health systems join digital startup venture with Northwell Health

Becker's Health IT, by Giles Bruces, 4/2/24

Nine health systems are partnering with a venture studio aiming to launch digital health startups. The systems will work with Aegis Ventures, a startup incubator that has built four companies over the past three years with New Hyde Park, N.Y.-based Northwell Health. John Noseworthy, MD, emeritus president and CEO of Rochester, MN-based Mayo Clinic, will serve as chair of the new Digital Consortium. The group says its goal is to develop solutions "built for health systems by health systems." The nine founding members of Aegis Ventures' Digital Consortium are:

- Endeavor Health (Evanston, IL)
- IU Health (Indianapolis)
- Memorial Hermann Health System (Houston)
- Northwell Health
- Novant Health (Winston-Salem, NC)
- Ochsner Health (New Orleans)

- Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (Columbus)
- Sharp HealthCare (San Diego)
- Stanford Health Care (Palo Alto, CA)



Lutheran Senior Services/Diakon agreement forms one of largest US nonprofit LTC organizations

McKnights Senior Living, by Kathleen Steele Gaivin; 3/29/24

Diakon Senior Living operations and its four continuing care retirement / life plan communities will become part of Lutheran Senior Services under an agreement ... that the organizations say will create one of the largest nonprofit senior living and care organizations in the country. The transaction is pending regulatory approvals and is expected to close this summer.

Today's Encouragement

You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending. ~CS Lewis



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