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**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

April 11th, 2024

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Hospice Provider News

[Rio Grande Hospital addition designed for wellness \[Includes lodging for out-of-town hospice family members\]](#)

Alamosa Citizen; 4/9/24

On the west side of Del Norte, across from a large bison herd, sits Rio Grande Hospital and Clinic. Construction of a large addition, a Wellness Village, is approaching completion with a grand opening planned for June. ... When completed, the wellness village will occupy five acres adjoining the existing hospital campus and will include the multipurpose Wellness Center, four to six small housing units, and four RV hookups. The housing and RV hookup features will enable those who don't live close by or who are visiting the area to spend time with loved ones in treatment or hospice without having to travel up to 90 miles plus-or-minus every day.

[Hospice of Redmond expands Camp Sunrise, yearly grief camp, to include teens 13-17](#)

KTVZ.com News Channel 21, Redmond, OR; 4/9/24

An estimated 6 million children, or 1 in 12 kids in the United States, will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18. ... Substance abuse and behavioral issues are closely intertwined with grief. Untreated grief may impact high-risk behavior, trouble in school, and substance abuse. Hospice of Redmond's annual children's grief camp, Camp Sunrise, which occurs every June, has expanded its offerings to include helping teens ages 13 to 17 this year.

Palliative Care Provider News

Valley Health provider's memory lives on with help of donor generosity

Valley Health Foundations, 4/9/24

On March 27, a new Intensivist Workroom was dedicated in Winchester Medical Center's Critical Care unit in memory of Mark Clinton, MD, who passed away in 2018 from cancer. Dr. Clinton's specialty was palliative care, including the care of the caregiver. He was a superb clinician, a compassionate provider and a steadfast partner. He worked for Valley Intensivists for five years before his death. Since his passing, nearly \$30,000 has been donated in his memory.



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Clinical News

Why difficult conversations matter: How delivering bad news with clarity and empathy impacts both provider and patient

Cedars Sinai, by Cassie Tomlin; 4/8/24

Good physicians rely on a battery of hard-won skills to treat serious illness—they observe, predict, test, prescribe and diagnose. But many physicians haven't been taught how to have productive, mutually beneficial conversations—such as sharing a life-changing diagnosis or informing patients about disease trajectory and symptoms, prognosis and end-of-life care. High-impact communication tools can be learned at any point in a physician's career, says Jessica Besbris, MD, director of Neuropalliative Care and the Neurology Supportive Care Medicine Program at Cedars-Sinai. Here, Besbris shares why such careful conversations

matter for everyone involved, and ways physicians can improve how they discuss serious illness.

The transformative power of art in palliative care patients

Hardwood Paroxysm, by Shannon Bailey; 4/10/24

Art can often express what is difficult in words. ... Carles joined the program weeks before his death and after undergoing other treatments such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy or immunotherapy. ... [His partner and mother of his twin daughters described,] “The art therapy sessions were the most anticipated moment of the day during his stay in palliative care. For him, this was a way to express his feelings. A space for self-care, intimacy, meditation as well as connection with his closest beings.” [Read more for ...]

- Benefits of art therapy ...
- Patient transformation ...
- The role of families ...

A wish to remember: Penn Medicine program fulfills patients’ last requests

Penn Medicine News, by Meredith Mann; 4/9/24

The patient was dying of cancer. All options for saving or prolonging their life had been exhausted. Now, the patient most wanted to spend one more carefree, joyous day with their grandchild. ... This is just one example of the last requests granted through Princeton Health’s Three Wishes Project. On paper, it’s about performing small gestures that bring comfort and meaning to patients at the end of their lives. In practice, it’s about so much more—providing a sense of hope and closure, not only to these patients and their families, but also to staff.



Research News

Social media for palliative and end-of-life care research: a systematic review

BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care; by Yijun Wang, Jonathan Koffman, Wei Gao, Yuxin Zhou, Emeka Chukwusa, and Vasa Curcin; 4/9/24, online ahead of print

Background: Social media with real-time content and a wide-reaching user network opens up more possibilities for palliative and end-of-life care (PEoLC) researchers who have begun to embrace it as a complementary research tool. This review aims to identify the uses of social media in PEoLC studies and to examine the ethical considerations and data collection approaches raised by this research approach.

Mergers & Acquisition News

HCA Healthcare faces more Mission Health-related allegations

Modern Healthcare, by Alex Kacik; 4/9/24

Buncombe County in North Carolina seeks to join state Attorney General Josh Stein's (D) lawsuit against HCA Healthcare alleging the health system shirked its Mission Health acquisition agreement. When HCA acquired Asheville, North Carolina-based Mission for \$1.5 billion in 2019, Stein approved the transaction as long as HCA maintained services and increased behavioral health capacity, among other conditions. Stein in December sued HCA, alleging the Nashville, Tennessee-based for-profit hospital chain has failed to meet those terms.

Post-Acute Care News

Odom co-authors American Cancer Society Caregiver Services Guide

The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing, by Laura Gasque; 4/9/24

To help meet the needs of the growing number of people caring for family members and friends with cancer, the American Cancer Society has released the guide "Developing Caregiver Clinical Services: A Toolkit for Cancer Centers and Staff," co-authored by University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing Associate Professor and holder of the Doreen C. Harper Endowed Professorship in Nursing, J. Nicholas Odom, PhD, RN, ACHPN, FAAN. According to the ACS, this toolkit is the first of its kind to provide the tools and resources that oncology leaders, clinicians and staff members can use to implement for caregiver clinical services.

Editor's Note: [Click here to download this free, excellent resource](#). Reminder, the Hospice Conditions of Participation 2008 identify the "family" 423 times. Tending the caregiver/family's needs matter.



Family caregivers can help shape the outcomes for their loved ones – an ICU nurse explains their vital role

The Conversation, by Beth Daley; 4/9/24

The floor nurse had just told me that my new patient – let’s call her Marie – would not stop screaming. ... No matter how much I comforted her, ... she was screaming for her daughter, April, who was on her way. ... As a seasoned bedside critical care nurse, I see firsthand the benefits that family caregivers bring to patient care in the hospital. I also witness the emotional stress that caregivers experience when their loved one comes to the ICU.

Negotiations end between Local 17 Nurses and Providence St. Patrick Hospital

The Fairfield Sun Times - Missoula, MT, by Ian Alvano; 4/9/24

After a standstill of contract negotiations, a new contract has been ratified between the Local 17 Nurse Union and Providence St. Patrick Hospital. The nurses were looking for safe staffing ratios and competitive pay, in a new contract. Some of the demands were met and some weren't, said Local 17 co-president, Kate Marmorato, regarding the new ratified contract between the nurses and the hospital.

Technology / Innovations News

Why home-based healthcare could invite cyberattacks

Modern Healthcare, by Diane Eastabrook; 3/29/24

Cybersecurity experts warn that as more healthcare is provided in patients’ homes, the flow of data between those locations, vendors and providers raises the risk for ransomware attacks. In the wake of the Change Healthcare attack,

cybersecurity consultants are scrutinizing home-based care — particularly the storage and transfer of data through telehealth, remote patient monitoring and wearable devices.



Ethics

Fraudsters sentenced in scheme that distributed 7,600 phony nursing diplomas

McKnights Home Care, by Adam Healy; 4/8/24

Three individuals were sentenced for their role in distributing fraudulent diplomas and transcripts to thousands of nursing students in Florida, New York and New Jersey, the US Attorney's Office disclosed last week. ... Altogether, these individuals were responsible for dispersing more than 7,600 fake credentials, which fraudulently qualified students to sit for exams and obtain licenses as registered nurses or licensed practical nurses. By passing the national nursing board exam, these students were allowed to receive jobs at "unwitting healthcare providers throughout the United States," the Attorney's Office said in a statement. Prosecutors had previously claimed that some of these nurses may have obtained jobs at home health agencies and other healthcare providers in Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Texas.

General News

Top factors in nurses ending health care employment between 2018 and 2021

JAMA Network; by K. Jane Muir, PhD, RN, FNP-BC; Joshua Porat-Dahlerbruch, PhD, RN; Jacqueline Nikpour, PhD, RN; et al; 5/9/24

Question: Why did nurses leave health care employment from 2018 to 2021?

Findings: In this cross-sectional study of 7887 nurses who were employed in a non-health care job, not currently employed, or retired, the top contributing factors for leaving health care employment were planned retirement (39% of nurses), burnout (26%), insufficient staffing (21%), and family obligations (18%). Age distributions of nurses not employed in health care were similar to nurses currently employed in health care.

They work 80 hours a week for low pay. Now, California's early-career doctors are joining unions

Cal Matters, by Kristen Hwang; 4/8/24

... In some California hospitals, early-career doctors make as little as \$16 per hour working 80-hour weeks. It's training, known as residency, that every board-certified doctor must complete. ... Last week, hundreds of resident physicians and fellows at Kaiser Permanente's Northern California facilities became the latest to join the wave of medical trainees demanding better pay and working conditions. Their petition filed with the National Labor Relations Board comes after Kaiser Permanente refused to voluntarily recognize the union.

Young KC hospice patient feels love from Eric Stonestreet, Royals -- and a sweet pig

The Kansas City Star, by Lisa Gutierrez; 4/9/24

For more than three hours Sunday, a big ol', droopy-eared Chester White pig from Kansas with the longest of eyelashes and the pinkest of snouts cuddled with Isabelle Sears. She brushed him over and over and over. The pig's owner was awed by its gentle manners. So was Eric Stonestreet, the man who fulfilled Isabelle's request for the visit. You see, 22-year-old Isabelle wanted to be a veterinarian. Then brain cancer found her, again. She is a patient of Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care, at home in the Kansas City area surrounded by family and her pets.

Grief and justice: A sneak peek of Providence artist Jordan Seaberry's new exhibit

Rhode Island Monthly, by Veronica Bruno; 4/8/24

"We Live Until" explores grief, social justice and human rights through the lens of hospice care. Born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, Jordan Seaberry embraced the Providence community after attending the Rhode Island School of Design. It was there that Seaberry became involved in legislative efforts

centering around criminal justice reform, which reinvigorated his artistry as a painter. Seaberry's new exhibit, "We Live Until," opening April 27 at the Newport Art Museum, incorporates these political and cultural issues through the intimate stories of hospice care patients. The show also gives Seaberry an opportunity to come to grips with his grandmother's passing.

'I just want to take everybody fishing': Dose of the Coast provides a much needed respite

Nola.com - Louisiana Inspired, by Jack Barlow; 4/9/24

Dealing with a serious illness is all consuming. One nonprofit strives to give people suffering life-altering illnesses a much-needed break. Baton Rouge-based Dose of the Coast takes people dealing with cancer and other similar illnesses out for a day on the water. ... The genesis of the organization began in 2014, with a fishing trip for Ashley Ferguson's father, Donald Walker. ...

Education

Anti-DEI initiatives in medicine harm us all

MedPage Today - Perspectives; by Aderonke Pederson, MD; 4/9/24

I entered into medical school as a top student at the University of Chicago with a high GPA ... and a stellar CV exhibiting strong leadership qualities. I had beaten all odds, despite being a Black orphan migrant with no financial means. ... DEI programs across the country are under attack. ... [The] University of Texas recently eliminated all DEI programs on campus. Across the nation, policymakers have introduced anti-DEI bills in 28 states that will impact university admissions.

'Ladders and lattices' provide career opportunities for CNAs

McKnights Senior Living, by Kathleen Steele Gaivin; 4/10/24

Providers would be wise to help certified nursing assistants advance in their careers, according to an article in *Caring for the Ages*, a publication of AMDA–The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine. "One promising concept involves career ladders and lattices," wrote Joanne Kaldy, senior contributor. "As a CNA, ladders enable you to pursue opportunities to move 'up the ladder' into other positions, such as licensed practical nurse (LPN), registered nurse (RN), or administrator. ..."

Today's Encouragement

Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together. - George Eliot

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