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Hospice Provider News

[HopeHealth's expanding scope of pediatric hospice, palliative services](#)

Hospice News, by Holly Vossel; 4/8/24

HopeHealth has been growing its pediatric hospice and supportive care service lines in recent years to address a range of unmet needs among seriously ill children and their families. The nonprofit health system serves Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. ... Hospice News recently sat down with pediatrician Dr. Rebecca MacDonell-Yilmaz, medical director of HopeHealth's pediatric supportive services.

[City-country mortality gap widens amid persistent holes in rural health care access](#)

KFF Health News, by Jazmin Orozco Rodriguez; 4/9/24

The health disparities between rural and urban Americans have long been documented, but a recent report from the Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service found the chasm has grown in recent decades. In their examination, USDA researchers found rural Americans from the ages of 25 to 54 die from natural causes, like chronic diseases and cancer, at wildly higher rates than the same age group living in urban areas. ... In 1999, the natural-cause

mortality rate for people ages 25 to 54 in rural areas was only 6% higher than for city dwellers in the same age bracket. By 2019, the gap widened to 43%.

Angela Hospice opening a hospice residence at Lourdes Senior Community in Waterford

Detroit Regional Chamber, by Angela Hospice; 4/10/24

Angela Hospice will expand its caring services to the Waterford community and beyond, when it begins operating a 15-bed hospice residence at Lourdes Senior Community this summer and providing additional home hospice services in the area. The non-profit will extend its geographic reach further into north Oakland County, offering additional outreach to benefit all in the community, not just those on hospice care, through transformational grief support groups, educational outreach, and their Good Samaritan program, which serves those who are without insurance or the ability to pay for hospice.



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Accelerate Learning

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Valley Health and Blue Ridge Hospice expand partnership to offer hospice care at Shenandoah Memorial Hospital

ABC WHSV Fox TV 3, by Colby Johnson; 4/10/24

Valley Health and Blue Ridge Hospice are expanding their partnership to be able to offer their collaborative 'Hospice in the Hospital' program at Shenandoah Memorial Hospital in Woodstock. The program will allow patients at Shenandoah Memorial to receive end-of-life hospice care.

Governor Lamont announces \$35.5 million in state grants to support nonprofit providers with capital improvement projects [\$775 thousand to Connecticut Hospice]

State of Connecticut, Office of the Governor; 4/10/24

Governor Ned Lamont today announced that his administration is awarding approximately \$35.5 million in state funding to nonprofit providers across Connecticut for capital improvement projects that support each respective

organization in their mission of delivering services to some of the state's most vulnerable residents. The grants are being released through the state's Nonprofit Grant Program, which is administered by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. [The list includes:] ... "Branford – Connecticut Hospice: \$775,000 (Pharmacy Improvements)"

Clinical News

Readers share stories of their loved ones' deathbed visions

DNYUZ; 4/10/24 When I started reporting "What Deathbed Visions Teach Us About Living," about the visions, often of loved ones, that some people have in the final stretches of their lives, I had no idea just how universal the experience was. But within minutes of the story's publication, readers took to the comments section to post their own memories of having witnessed the phenomenon. The stories were rich, deeply personal, and seemed to confirm something that the researcher featured in my story, Dr. Chris Kerr, knew in his years of studying such visions: they bring peace to the dying and solace to the living. Family members wrote in with stories of watching loved ones have visions, as did health care workers, who had years of experience witnessing them. [Click on the article's title to read more stories.]



Regulatory News

How MA Plan design affects utilization, health equity

MedCity News, by Marissa Pescia; 4/8/24

A new study found that enrollees with zero-premium MA plans are three times as likely to be non-White compared to other MA enrollees and traditional Medicare enrollees. ... The study was published by Harvard Medical School and Inovalon, a provider of cloud-based software solutions. It used Inovalon's Medical Outcomes Research for Effectiveness and Economics Registry dataset, which "tracks demographic characteristics and outcomes for about 30% of all MA members at any given point in time," according to the report.

New patient safety measures imminent as risk of harm evolves: CMS

McKnights Long-Term Care News, by Kimberly Marselas; 4/10/24

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services remains acutely focused on patient harm and will introduce new measures addressing patient safety later this year, agency leaders said at an event in Baltimore Tuesday. ... Agency officials are working with other Health and Human Services branches and meeting internally to develop a 10-point patient safety strategy to be unveiled later this year.

New study calls home health star ratings into question

McKnights Home Care, by Adam Healy, 4/11/24

A comparison of agency-reported functional measures and claims-based hospitalization measures raises doubts about the value of star ratings as a means of evaluating home health agency (HHA) quality. The [study](#), published Wednesday in *JAMA Network Open*, analyzed differences between claims-based and agency-reported outcomes for nearly 23 million patient episodes before and after the introduction of the star ratings system to compare changes over time.



Public Policy News

Privacy bill could have sweeping impact on insurers, providers

Modern Healthcare, by Michael McAuliff; 4/10/24

A far-reaching new privacy bill could have major implications for how healthcare providers, insurance companies and third parties handle and utilize sensitive data. While the bipartisan American Privacy Rights Act of 2024 is not specific to the healthcare industry, a number of its proposed policies would impact how healthcare companies do business. The legislation includes an array of

provisions that range from raising cybersecurity standards to allowing people to opt out of algorithms that could be used to make medical decisions.

Research News

The HAP Foundation conducts research study on Black Americans' experience with serious illness care in Chicago

The HAP Foundation, by Rachel French; 4/9/24

The HAP Foundation and NORC at the University of Chicago have completed a joint research project to understand the knowledge, attitudes, and experiences of Black Americans around serious illness care in Chicago. Through a community-based participatory research design, narratives from Black individuals living in Chicago were captured by focus groups and in-depth interviews. "Community-Based Study: Prioritizing Dignity and Respect in End-of-Life Care for Black Chicagoans" is being distributed widely to health care providers and the community to encourage conversations and create change in behavioral patterns during end-of-life care.

Editor's Note: [Click here for this downloadable, 17 page booklet.](#)

Post-Acute Care News

New York's home health, personal care workforce achieves fastest growth in nation: BLS

McKnights Home Care, by Adam Healy; 4/10/24

New York is adding home health and personal care jobs faster than any other state, growing its supply of such workers by 12% between May 2022 and May 2023, according to new data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The state added roughly 62,000 home health and personal care aides during that time period, which was more than double that of any other state and accounted for over one third of nationwide home care aide employment growth, according to an analysis by the Empire Center, an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank based in New York.



HOSPICE ANALYTICS

TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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Alleged DNR mix-up death highlights concerns for nursing homes

McKnights Long-Term Care News, by Josh Henreckson; 4/11/24

The untimely death of a Connecticut nursing home resident in September was the result of mistakenly applying a roommate's do-not-resuscitate order, alleges a lawsuit filed by that resident's daughter last week. The potential mix-up illuminates struggles faced by nursing homes across the country when it comes to managing the increasingly complex needs of their patients.

Technology / Innovations News

Providers still navigating Change outage as systems are restored

Modern Healthcare, by Lauren Berryman; 4/10/24

Providers are seeing some improvements following the Change Healthcare cyberattack nearly two months ago, but not necessarily because they are reconnecting to restored systems. Hospitals and medical groups are submitting claims to payers through alternate vendors, allowing them to generate cash. But the level of claims and payments moving among healthcare organizations that had heavily relied on Change Healthcare is still far from normal.

General News

6-year-old boy battling serious illness sworn in as Lynwood police officer

NBC TV 5 Chicago, by Evrod Cassimy; 4/9/24

Child battling serious illness gets wish granted by village. With his hand raised in the air and a round of applause from those in attendance, the Village of Lynwood's newest cop was sworn in at just 6 years old. Keyjuan Andrewin has dreams of helping people as a police officer and has battled serious health issues for most of his young life.

[PeaceHealth nurses announce plan to picket outside hospital April 18](#)

The Columbian, by Chrissy Booker; 4/10/24

Nurses at PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center in Vancouver will picket outside the hospital April 18. ... The bargaining unit, which includes 1,465 nurses, is negotiating with the hospital for a new three-year contract. According to a news release from the union, “management has not agreed to the association’s proposed workplace protections, staffing commitments or market-rate wages.” PeaceHealth countered that its proposals have been “highly competitive.”

Education

[Why so many nurses are fleeing healthcare — and how hospitals can address the problem](#)

MedCity News, by Katie Adams; 4/10/24

Nearly one-fifth of nurses are projected to leave the healthcare workforce by 2027. The American Organization for Nursing Leadership published a report revealing one of the biggest reasons nurses are exiting the industry: their managers are too busy to train and support them.

Other News

[Executive personnel changes](#)

- [Pathways Hospice](#) names Dr. Nathaniel Chappelle, M.D. as Medical Director (Fort Collins, CO)
- [Richmond University Medical Center](#) names Jeffrey Lieto as Senior Vice President of the Richmond Health Network (Staten Island, NY); formerly COO at Calvary Hospital and Home Hospice
- [Samaritan](#) names Dr. Sara Pagliaro as Chief Medical Officer (Mount Laurel, NJ)
- [The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Care](#) names Dr. Michael Gustafson, MD, MBA as CEP; formerly President of UMass Memorial Medical Center (UMMMC)

[Other Business Headlines of Interest, updated 4/11/24 per nasdaq.com](#)

- [Adus HomeCare \(ADUS: \\$99.10\)](#)

- Amedisys (AMED: \$92.19)
- BrightSpring Health (BTSG: \$10.33)
- Encompass (EHC: \$81.36)
- Enhabit (EHAB: \$10.79)
- Ensign Group (ENSG: \$117.72)
- HCA Healthcare (HCA: \$326.24)
- Humana (HUM: \$316.64)
- Pennant Group (PNTG: \$20.22)
- Vitas / Chemed Corp (CHE: \$615.82)

I'm a CEO: Here's how much I made in my first role & how that inspired me to keep going

Nasdaq.com, by Martin Dasko; 4/10/24

If you've ever wondered what a CEO made in their first job, we've spoken with someone who shared insights into his journey from an entry-level position to being in charge of an entire business. [Lessons:]

1. You Have to Start Somewhere ...
2. The Importance of Delayed Gratification ...
3. Success Isn't Always Linear ...

Today's Encouragement

Friday. The golden child of the weekdays. The superhero of the workweek. The welcome wagon to the weekend. — Anonymous

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