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**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

April 14th, 2024

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

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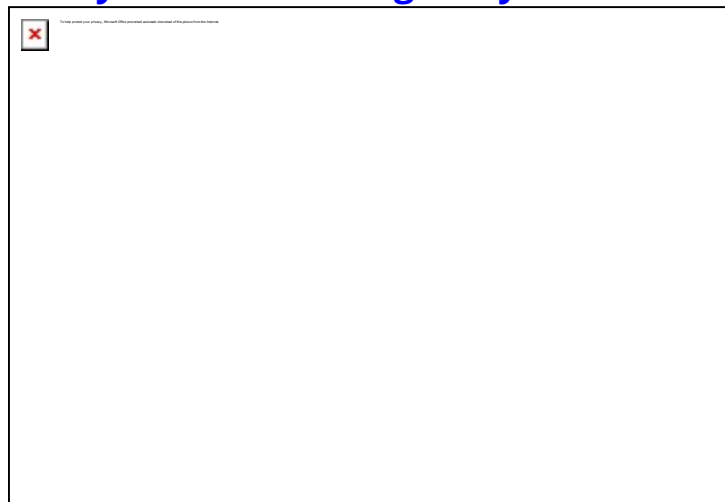
Mortality, hospice use rates differ in assisted living communities depending on whether memory care is offered

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?"](#)

Today's Heartwarming Story



Louisiana ~ Mississippi Hospice & Palliative Care Organization

Announcement; 4/7/24

Several LMHPCO Board of Directors and Education Committee members, as well as LMHPCO Staff visited (this past week) with the Angola Hospice Volunteers and their Staff. This was the first such meeting post-COVID. An incredible day with an incredible hospice program and LMHPCO is grateful to Tonia Faust (the Angola Hospice Nurse/Volunteer Coordinator and an LMHPCO Education Committee Member) for making this visit possible.

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.



Accelerate Results
Accelerate Growth
Accelerate Learning

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.

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.

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.



I work with dying Trump supporters. It's ... confusing

Daily Kos, by Scott Janssen; 4/6/24

I'm driving down a gravel road in rural North Carolina, looking at mailbox numbers. A hospice social worker, I'm headed to meet Petey, a patient dying of metastatic cancer. ... A few homes down I see a ranch style house with a Trump flag hanging limp from what looks like a homemade flagpole. ...

Publisher's Note: In our advocacy, we often say "death and hospice are bipartisan." This (inflammatory) opinion piece challenges us to ethically wrestle with our biases (political or otherwise) to professionally provide excellent end-of-life care to all the people we have the privilege to serve.

*Editor's Note: In day-to-day care--no matter political, religious, or other beliefs--what **can** you support, within the appropriate scope of your professional role? What is untenable; you cannot support? Examine the term "moral distress."*

Neuropsychiatric effects associated with opioid-based management for palliative care patients

Current Pain and Headache Reports, by Alan D Kaye, Kylie Dufrene, Jada Cooley, Madeline Walker, Shivam Shah, Alex Hollander, Sahar Shekoohi, Christopher L Robinson; 4/24

The abundance of opioids administered in the palliative care setting that was once considered a standard of care is at present necessitating that providers evaluate patients for unintentional and deleterious symptomology related to aberrant opioid use and addiction. ... By having an increased understanding and awareness of potential opioid neuropsychiatric effects, patient quality of life can be improved, healthcare system costs can be decreased, and patient outcomes can be met and exceeded.

[Psychology Today] Facing Mortality Honestly

Psychology today, by Patricia Prijatel; 4/6/24

Personal Perspective: *Being Mortal*, by Atul Gawander, explores end-of-life-care. I read *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande when it was first published in 2014 and haven't stopped talking about it. It shot to the top of my list as one of the most important books I've ever read. After 10 years, I read it again to see if it held up. It did. I was as entranced the second time as the first—even more so because, as it happens, I am also now 10 years older.



Do end-of-life outcomes differ by assisted living memory-care designation?

Journal of the American Geriatric Society, by Xiao Joyce Wang, Portia Y Cornell, Emmanuelle Belanger, Kali S Thomas; 4/24

Residential care/assisted living (RC/AL) is an increasingly common place of end-of-life care for persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia (ADRD), who have unique care needs as their health declines. Approximately 22% of RC/ALs provide specialized memory care (memory-care RC/AL). Understanding how end-of-life outcomes differ by memory care among residents with ADRD could facilitate aging/dying in place for this population. The objective of this paper is to examine if end-of-life outcomes (i.e., mortality, hospice use, and number of days receiving hospice in the last month of life) differ between residents with ADRD who moved to memory-care RC/AL, compared with residents with ADRD who moved to RC/AL without memory care (general RC/AL).

Where you begin is not necessarily where you end: the mental and physical health trajectories of cancer caregivers over time

Supportive Care in Cancer, by Maureen Wilson Genderson, Maria D. Thomson, Laura A. Siminoff; 10/23

Cancer caregiving, a critical component in the cancer-care model, has deleterious effects on the caregiver's physical and mental health. The degree to which these negative effects are uniformly experienced by caregivers is unclear; effects may be exacerbated at the end of life when caregiving is intensified. Not all caregivers have the support of an additional involved support person (secondary caregiver). The impact of the secondary caregiver's absence on the primary caregiver's well-being is understudied.

'We're the telescope looking forward': Medical ethicists ask tough questions as part of \$66 million research project

CU Department of Medicine, by Mark Harden; 4/5/24

In the original "Jurassic Park" movie, after the process of bringing dinosaurs back to life is explained to a team of consultants, one of them voices a warning: "Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they *could*, they didn't stop to think if they *should*." University of Colorado Department of Medicine faculty members will be asking the "should" question years before there's an answer to "could." They've joined in a [nationwide study](#) of whether tiny, battery-powered electric devices and genetic material, swallowed in capsule form, could one day replace surgery or injections as treatments for metabolic diseases such as diabetes and obesity.



Association of frailty and cardiopulmonary resuscitation outcomes in older U.S. Veterans

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, by Dominique M Tosi, MD; Marlana C Fernandez, MD; Shivaan Oomrigar, MD; Lorena P Burton, MD; Iriana S Hammel, MD; Andrew Quartin, MD; Jorge G Ruiz, MD; 4/24

CPR outcomes were not different depending on frailty status in our Veteran

population. With these results, we cannot use frailty - as measured by the VA-FI - as a prognosticator of CPR outcomes in Veterans.

Today's Encouragement

The greatest teacher is not the one who imparts knowledge, but the one who inspires curiosity. ~Timotheus of Miletus

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