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**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

April 15th, 2024

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Headlines

[Draft Code of Conduct to ensure the use of AI in health and health care meets its potential reliably and safely - Survey/feedback requested](#)

National Academy of Medicine; 4/8/24

While AI holds immense promise for revolutionizing health care and improving health outcomes, it is not without significant risk. ... A new *NAM Perspectives* Commentary outlines a draft framework for achieving accurate, safe, reliable, and ethical AI advancements that can transform health, health care, and biomedical science. ... The NAM Leadership Consortium is seeking input from stakeholders on the Code Principles and Commitments to ensure responsible and equitable use of AI in health, health care, and biomedical science. Share your experiences and feedback. ... Participate in the survey.

Editor's Note: See related article in today's 4/15/24 issue, "AI in palliative and end-of-life care: How new technology makes us feel is important."

Hospice Provider News

[Private Equity: Proposed Health Over Wealth Act - What this means for you](#)

JD Supra, by Roger Strobe; 4/11/24

On April 3, 2024, Senators Edward Markey ... and Elizabeth Warren ... chaired a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee ... titled, *When Health Care Becomes Wealth Care: How Corporate Greed Puts Patient*

Care and Health Workers at Risk. As part of the hearing process, Senator Markey released his new legislative agenda that calls for transparency and accountability for private equity (PE) in health care. ... The bill would require PE-backed or other for-profit owned providers (those providing services covered by Medicare under 42 U.S.C. Section 1395d) such as hospitals, hospice, nursing homes, and certain other facilities, to annually report to HHS on all manner of things including, but not limited to ... [click on the title's link for the list].

Barriers to expanding perinatal palliative care, hospice

Hospice News, by Holly Vossel, 4/10/24

A lack of trained staff and evolving health laws are among the leading barriers to expanding perinatal palliative and hospice care among underserved populations. ... Mistrust and fear of discrimination are among the common barriers, along with social determinants of health such as insurance coverage, socioeconomic status and transportation, according to recent [analysis](#) from researchers at the Morehouse School of Medicine's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.



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Home Healthcare Market worth \$383.0 billion by 2028

Iowanews Headlines; 4/11/24

[The] Home Healthcare Market in terms of revenue was estimated to be worth \$250.0 billion in 2023 and is poised to reach \$383.0 billion by 2028, growing at a CAGR of 8.9% from 2023 to 2028 according to a new report by MarketsandMarkets™. The primary drivers propelling the growth of this market are the aging population, rising healthcare expenditures, and the increased need for home care due to technological advancements in home healthcare. ... The home healthcare market on the basis of service is divided into skilled nursing services, rehabilitation therapy services, hospice & palliative care services, unskilled care services, respiratory therapy services, infusion therapy services, and pregnancy care services.

New DOJ rules for online healthcare content make sure seniors aren't taken offline

McKnights Senior Living, by Aaron Dorman; 4/11/24

The Department of Justice took steps earlier this week to help make sure old adults have appropriate access to valuable web content they need for understanding important healthcare and coverage decisions. State and government agencies, such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, must abide by new technical standards, according to a new DOJ rule signed Monday [4/1/24]. "Just as stairs can exclude people who use wheelchairs from accessing government buildings," the official rule [states](#), "inaccessible web content and mobile apps can exclude people with a range of disabilities from accessing government services." The technical requirements of the rule are extensive — the updated document is almost 300 pages long — but the overall purpose is to instruct agencies on their obligations to account for possible disabilities.

Village Hospice hosts Vietnam Veteran's Breakfast

CBS KCTV 5, Kansas City, MO; 4/10/24

Village Hospice provides many services to support their residents, including ways to honor their residents that are veterans. Jillian hears about a recent Vietnam Veterans' Breakfast and how it celebrated Veterans living at John Knox Village.



Clinical News

No nightmares and no light at the end of the tunnel. This dream most often repeats itself before death

247 News Agency; 4/12/24

Does our subconscious know that death is inevitably approaching? Taking into account the latest research, this is quite possible. It turns out that at the end of life many people have the same dream. It's not a nightmare at all. The topic fascinates many people. For scientists, it is still a mystery that they try to solve by talking to people who survived clinical death or were on the verge of life and death. The best example is Dr. Christopher Kerr, a cardiologist and director of

Hospice and Palliative Care Center in Buffalo, ... [who researched] the dreams of patients at the end of life.

3 ways advance care planning empowers people

TCPalm, Visiting Nurse Association, by Lauren Gruber; 4/10/24

... National Healthcare Decisions Day on April 16th, which seeks to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers on the importance of health planning, is a prime opportunity to consider enrolling in an advance care plan. Identifying the right caregiving plans may seem daunting at first, but it's important that patients solidify an advance care plan for the security and peace of mind of themselves and their loved ones. ... Here are three ways why choosing an advance care plan through the VNA can empower patients to ensure the best care possible during their health care journey:

1. Build a system of support for all patient health needs ...
2. Maintain freedom when choosing a personalized advance care plan ...
3. Secure the future for patients and loved ones ...

Savie Health increasing services

Noozhawk, by Ern Shugart; 4/12/24

Savie Health, a free medical clinic in Lompoc providing health, behavioral health, and vision care, is expanding its services to add a Spanish speaking women's health group and bereavement therapy, in partnership with Hospice of Santa Barbara. Savie's patient data attests to the need for the clinic's services: nearly 40% are at least mildly depressed, 20% are severely depressed, and the average income/family size is \$22,000 for a family of four.



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Medical marijuana program enrollments up 500% from 2016 to 2022

Green Market Report, by John Schroyer; 4/11/24

The increase was partially due to a rise in mainstream "cultural acceptance of cannabis" and corresponding interest in medical uses. A new federally funded report that tallied medical marijuana patient statistics from across the country found a dramatic increase of registered cannabis patients over a seven-year period, from roughly 678,000 in 2016 to more than 4.1 million at the end of 2022.

Regulatory News

AMA, AHIP, NAACOS outline value-based care best practices

Modern Healthcare, by Nona Tepper; 4/10/24

Health insurers, physicians and accountable care organizations issued recommendations Wednesday outlining what they see as the best ways to boost value-based care initiatives. The report from the health insurance trade group AHIP, the American Medical Association and the National Association of ACOs focuses on total-cost-of-care contracts, ACOs that typically span three to five years and have demonstrated success improving quality and reducing costs, according to the organizations.

\$1 billion Medicaid shortfall leads to waiting list for HCBS

McKnights Senior Living, by Kimberly Bonivssuto; 4/12/24

An almost \$1 billion shortfall in Indiana's Medicaid program is fueling the implementation of a waitlist for the state's home- and community-based services waiver program. ... Last week, the [Family and Social Services Administration] FSSA announced that it was implementing a waiting list after the A&D waiver program reached maximum capacity. Overall, strategies the agency outlined to reign in spending are expected to have a \$300 million impact over the biennium.



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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Central Oregon hospice sues feds over challenged Medicare claims

The Lund Report, by Nick Budnick; 4/11/24

One of a declining number of nonprofit hospice providers, Partners In Care leaders have successfully defended the vast majority of disputed claims, but have sued to erase the rest while challenging government methods. The case could have 'huge ramifications' and will be closely watched.

Post-Acute Care News

McLeod Health will build \$45 million hospital in Cheraw

The Post and Courier Pee Dee, Florence, SC; by Chris Day; 4/10/24

McLeod Health will build a \$45 million hospital in Cheraw, replacing the current building that was constructed in 1980. ... McLeod Health operates seven hospitals to serve residents in northeastern South Carolina and southeastern North Carolina. The not-for-profit organization has 988 licensed beds, including hospice and behavioral health care.

Lankford advocates for Physician-Owned Hospitals to expand healthcare access for Oklahomans

James Lankford; 4/11/24

Senator James Lankford (R-OK) participated in a Senate Finance Committee hearing entitled, "Bolstering Chronic Care through Medicare Physician Payment," where he talked about the importance of encouraging more physician-owned hospitals (POHs) to allow for greater access to healthcare across Oklahoma. ... POHs represent less than five percent of the 5,700 hospitals nationwide. However, POHs have a successful track record of providing individualized and innovative quality care, and they meet a growing demand for health care services, especially in rural areas.

Technology / Innovations News

AI in palliative and end-of-life care: "How new technology makes us feel is important"

Marie Curie, by Dr. Ami Nwosu, Research Lead at the Marie Curie Hospice, Liverpool, UK; 4/11/24

... People who require palliative and end of life care require specific physical, emotional, psychological and social needs, which requires holistic assessment

and support. Although there are more opportunities to use AI technologies in palliative care, there may be concern from family caregivers that technology may be unable to provide the person-centered, human connection which may be desired when people are at their most vulnerable.

Editor's Note: See related article is today's 4/15/24 issue, "Draft Code of Conduct to ensure the use of AI in health and health care meets its potential reliably and safely - Survey/feedback requested."

Ethics

AHA seeks federal probe of MultiPlan, insurers

Modern Healthcare, by Michael McAuliff; 4/9/24

The American Hospital Association wants the Labor Department to investigate the analytics company MultiPlan and its large insurer clients to determine whether they engage in business practices that disadvantage patients and providers. According to a New York Times investigation published Sunday, MultiPlan and customers such as UnitedHealth Group subsidiary UnitedHealthcare, CVS Health subsidiary Aetna and Cigna boost their finances by dispensing low payments to out-of-network providers and burdening patients with large bills.

General News

Heart-warming story: Half a century and 4 million meals haven't slowed down this long-term care culinary king

McKnights Long-Term Care News, by Josh Henreckson; 4/10/24

For almost as long as there has been a Buena Vista Care Center in Santa Barbara, CA, Miguel Pulido has been there — making sure the residents of the nursing home are fed and happy. Pulido is fast approaching his 50th anniversary on the job, and the residents and staff at Buena Vista couldn't help but celebrate. ... Buena Vista is a 150-bed facility with twice-daily mealtimes for residents. Its leaders estimate that Pulido has served around 4 million meals during his career.

Education

How to become a nurse later in life

Board Vitals; 4/11/24

Embarking on a career in the nursing field later in life is an inspiring journey that many individuals choose to undertake. Whether it's a personal passion or a long-held dream, it's never too late to pursue a fulfilling career in healthcare. In this guide, we will answer the most common questions asked by those starting a nursing career later in life.

Editor's Note: Does your hospice or palliative care organization partner with a nursing school? Or with any other type of university, community college, etc. that educates professionals for roles used in your organization? Explore opportunities to instill information and interest in end-of-life care.

Other News

Former nursing home CEO gets 2.5 years, must pay \$11 million restitution for neglecting payroll taxes

McKnights Long-Term Care News, by Josh Henreckson; 4/9/24

The former CEO of a healthcare administrative services company was sentenced Friday to 30 months in prison followed by two years of supervised release for failing to pay more than \$10 million in payroll taxes at companies he owned. Josef Neuman had been CEO of a Lakewood, NJ, company that provided services to nursing homes and other healthcare providers, including around 20 that Neuman also co-owned.

Today's Encouragement

Who said, "In this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes"?

Answer: Benjamin Franklin

Happy April 15th!

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