

Cordt Kassner

From: Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 4:00 AM
To: Cordt Kassner
Subject: Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 04/16/24



**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

OUR SPONSORS

[LMHPCO](#)

[Composing Life](#)

[Hospice Analytics](#)

April 16th, 2024

Today is National Healthcare Decisions Day. Are your advance directives in place? When did you last update them? Have you communicated your decisions with those involved? Use and share these resources with your employees and volunteers.

- [Advance Directives](#), by the Hospice Foundation of America, with links to each state
- [Caring Info](#), by the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization
- [The Conversation Project](#), by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement

Contents

1. [Mayo Clinic Minute: Creating an advance directive for your future well-being](#)
2. [\[\\$300k to inpatient hospice care\] Youngkin presents budget reflecting compromise](#)
3. [Iowa River Hospice arranges unique celebration of life for Marshalltown woman with cancer](#)
4. [Physician coaching by professionally trained peers for burnout and well-being: A randomized clinical trial](#)

5. Pilot program leads to 42 percent reduction in resident falls
6. Comment: Rule must change to allow dialysis as end-of-life care
7. Goals of care among patients with advanced cancer and their family caregivers in the last years of life
8. 2 federal bills look to boost pipeline of healthcare workers
9. The Maine Death with Dignity Act Annual Report - Data from calendar year 2023
10. Oaks sells nursing home to national operator
11. Message-based telehealth an increasingly important part of seniors' healthcare, study finds
12. 'Are nursing homes our only option?' These centers offer older adults an alternative.
13. Black nurses advance bias suit over patients' racial preferences
14. Art made by hospice patients displayed at Poole Lighthouse
15. Reno Little Theater's 'The Quality of Life' explores the complications of death and grief
16. Modern Healthcare's 2024 Diversity Leaders Awards: Nominate a diverse leader
17. Tracking layoffs, closures in healthcare nationwide
18. Potential CMS measure shows divide over quality training standards
19. Hospices face 'devastating' financial crisis as staff costs rises, charity warns
20. Today's Encouragement: Birth and death ...

Headlines

Mayo Clinic Minute: Creating an advance directive for your future well-being

Mayo Clinic, by Abby Smith; 4/12/24

No one can predict the future, but putting together an [advance directive](#) can bring you peace of mind and a plan for your medical care during an emergency or end of life. Dr. Maisha Robinson, chair of the Palliative Medicine Department at Mayo Clinic in Florida, advises people to have these conversations with family members and loved ones. ... Dr. Robinson has three important tips after preparing your directive:

- Tell your healthcare surrogate you've chosen them.
- Inform them where the document is.
- Give the document to your healthcare team and/or hospital.

Hospice Provider News

[\$300k to inpatient hospice care] Youngkin presents budget reflecting compromise

Blue Ridge Leader & Loudon Today; 4/13/24

Gov. Glenn Youngkin on April 8, released a package of 242 budget amendments to find common ground with the General Assembly on a new, two-year budget. The propose package eliminates all tax decreases and increases, includes a \$21.3 billion record investment for K-12 education, and provides \$3.2 billion on new spending on health and human resources. ... [Among many other line items, this includes:] \$300,000 for inpatient hospice care in Aldie.

Clinical News

Iowa River Hospice arranges unique celebration of life for Marshalltown woman with cancer

Times Republican, by Robert Maharry; 4/13/24

Sandy Messer ... has been battling cancer for the last two years and is currently receiving in-home hospice care. On March 23, a Celebration of Life was arranged by Iowa River Hospice at Mama DiGrado's so that her family members could share their love with Messer while she is still alive.

Physician coaching by professionally trained peers for burnout and well-being: A randomized clinical trial

JAMA Network; by Stephanie B. Kiser, MD, MPH; J. David Sterns, MD, MPH; Po Ying Lai, MS; et al; 4/12/24

Findings: In this randomized clinical trial of 138 physicians, participants who received 3 months of coaching by professionally trained physician peers had a statistically significant reduction in interpersonal disengagement and burnout, with improvement in professional fulfillment and work engagement.

Pilot program leads to 42 percent reduction in resident falls

McKnights Senior Living, by John O'Connor; 4/15/24

A tech-based pilot program has helped Allegro Senior Living reduce resident falls by 42%, the company announced Thursday. As a result, the Grayslake, IL-based firm plans to expand the program to more of its 16 communities. For the pilot, Allegro partnered with SafelyYou. The tech-based firm uses a blend of AI video

technology and around-the-clock remote clinical support. The combination helps detect falls and identify underlying causes.

Comment: Rule must change to allow dialysis as end-of-life care

HeraldNet, by Matthew Rivara and Mackenzie Daniek; 4/13/24

More than 1 in 7 American adults live with chronic kidney disease, making it one of the most common chronic disease conditions in the United States. ... Medicare will generally not reimburse health care providers for dialysis treatments if a patient has elected to enter hospice care, as dialysis treatments are considered by Medicare to be “curative” rather than “palliative” care. Because of this, most patients getting dialysis for ESRD must forego all dialysis treatment after entering a hospice program.



Goals of care among patients with advanced cancer and their family caregivers in the last years of life

JAMA Network; by Semra Ozdemir, PhD; Isha Chaudhry, MSc, Chetna Malhotra, MD; et al; 4/11/24

Introduction: In this decision-making process, family caregivers often play integral roles. However, caregivers often have different treatment goals than patients, with some cross-sectional evidence indicating that caregivers typically prioritize life extension, while patients prioritize symptom management.

Conclusions and Relevance: In this cohort study of patient-caregiver dyads, findings suggested the importance of interventions aimed at reducing discordance in goals of care between patients and caregivers and helping them develop realistic expectations to avoid costly, futile treatments.

Public Policy News

2 federal bills look to boost pipeline of healthcare workers

McKnights Senior Living, by Kathleen Steele Gaivin; 4/12/24

Bills introduced in both houses of Congress may bolster the healthcare workforce if they become law. Both pieces of legislation are supported by LeadingAge. The bicameral Welcome Back to the Health Care Workforce Act is

meant to address the shortage of healthcare workers across the country. Specifically, the legislation would help internationally educated healthcare workers overcome barriers to working in the United States ...

The Maine Death with Dignity Act Annual Report - Data from calendar year 2023

Produced by Data, Research, and Vital Statistics Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Department of Health and Human Services; 4/12/24

In accordance with 22 MRS § 2140(17), the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) [has generated and made available] to the public an annual statistical report of information collected under the Maine Death with Dignity Act. ... This report is for patients who completed a written request for medication to hasten their death in calendar year 2023. Patients who completed the oral request but not a written request within the calendar year will be included in the subsequent year's report.



Mergers & Aquisition News

Oaks sells nursing home to national operator

The Times and Democrat, by Gene Zaleski; 4/13/24

The Oaks Healthcare, the nursing home segment of The Oaks of Orangeburg (SC), has sold its nursing home services to Cascade Capital Group, a Skokie, Illinois-based private health care real estate investment and asset management firm. ... The Oaks will become PACS' 25th nursing home in the state and will join over 220 other nursing homes that PACS operates throughout the country. ... [The Oaks of Orangeburg manager] Clay Fowler said the changes will enable a greater focus on the PACE program. The program was rebranded as the

Post-Acute Care News

Message-based telehealth an increasingly important part of seniors' healthcare, study finds

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

Many healthcare experts, and even government agencies, are working to try to expand telehealth coverage for older adults. But much of that work considers telehealth in terms of video and/or phone conversations. E-mails and digital messaging across patient portals, however, also are part of seniors' healthcare regimen, particularly those who are Medicare beneficiaries, finds a new study published in *Health Affairs Scholar*. As such, updated telehealth coverage decisions should factor in the time that older adults, their caregivers and clinicians need to exchange these messages, the researchers said.

'Are nursing homes our only option?' These centers offer older adults an alternative.

Rhode Island Current, by Anna Claire Vollers; 4/12/24

PACE centers attract bipartisan interest and, in some states, scrutiny. ... PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) centers provide government-funded medical care and social services to people older than 55 whose complex medical needs qualify them for nursing home care, but who can live at home with the right sort of help. ... Nationally, PACE centers are owned by a variety of health care organizations, including nonprofits, for-profit companies, large health care systems and religious organizations. ... [The] explosive growth has come with challenges ...



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Ethics

Black nurses advance bias suit over patients' racial preferences

Bloomberg Law, by Patrick Dorrian; 4/15/24

Two medical service providers were denied a quick win in a proposed class lawsuit by two Black employees who say the companies honors patients' requests for White nurses for in-home care. The US District Court for the Middle District of Florida rejected the argument of Good Shepherd Hospice Inc. and parent Chapters Health System Inc. that the two women failed to claim they experienced an adverse employment action as a result of the alleged discriminatory practice.

General News

Art made by hospice patients displayed at Poole Lighthouse

Yahoo! News, by Erin Rhodes, United Kingdom; 4/15/24

More than 200 pieces of art made by patients at a Dorset hospice charity have been displayed at the Lighthouse in Poole [United Kingdom]. The artworks have been made by patients with life-limiting illnesses at Lewis-Manning Hospice Care's hubs across Poole and east Dorset. Creative Art is one of the services the charity provides to support patients' wellbeing and mental health.

Reno Little Theater's 'The Quality of Life' explores the complications of death and grief

ThisIsReno, by Taylor Harker; 4/14/24

Reno Little Theater's "Quality of Life" brilliantly interweaves the lives of two families confronting profound grief and mortality. ... Together, ... two families navigate the turbulent waters of existential crises, each bringing their unique

perspectives on faith, resilience and the ethics surrounding end-of-life decisions. ... "Quality of Life," a dramatic comedy by Jane Anderson, explores how individuals and families confront and converse about death. The narrative is both tender and perceptive, delving into the internal conflicts and strong familial bonds that challenge and uphold them.

Modern Healthcare's 2024 Diversity Leaders Awards: Nominate a diverse leader

Modern Healthcare; 4/12/24

The Diversity Leaders in Healthcare awards program takes great pride in honoring the healthcare executives and organizations working to further equity and inclusion at their organizations and in the overall industry. ... [Click on the title's link for Individual and Organizational Awards' Dates, Eligibility, Criteria, Required Materials, and more]

Tracking layoffs, closures in healthcare nationwide

Modern Healthcare; 4/12/24

Modern Healthcare is tracking closures and layoffs from health systems, digital health companies, insurers and other related businesses nationwide to better understand how labor costs and concerns are impacting the industry in rural communities and cities alike.

- Hinge Health cuts 10% of staff ...
- Family Hospital Systems closing 2 Nebraska hospitals ...
- Bristol Health cuts 60 positions ...
- Highmark Health cuts 182 positions ...
- More ...

Education

Potential CMS measure shows divide over quality training standards

Modern Healthcare, by Mari Devereaux; 4/12/24

Hospitals may soon be required to provide set quality training to staff as part of a Medicare reporting program, but health systems and advocacy organizations are split on whether the standardization of quality-related skill sets is necessary to improve patient care.

International News

Hospices face 'devastating' financial crisis as staff costs rises, charity warns

Shropshire Star, United Kingdom; 4/15/24

Hospices are facing a “devastating” financial crisis because of rising staff costs which are putting services at risk, a charity has warned. The chief executive of Hospice UK, Toby Porter, said the last year had seen the “worst financial results for the hospice sector in around 20 years.”

Today's Encouragement

Birth and death are the most singular events we experience – and the contemplation of death, as of birth, should be a thing of beauty, not ignobility. – Jacob K. Javits

Sign up for our free daily newsletters [here!](#)

The Fine Print:

Paywalls: Some links may take readers to articles that either require registration or are behind a paywall. **Disclaimer:** Hospice & Palliative Care Today provides brief summaries of news stories of interest to hospice, palliative, and end-of-life care professionals (typically taken directly from the source article). Hospice & Palliative Care Today is not responsible or liable for the validity or reliability of information in these articles and directs the reader to authors of the source articles for questions or comments. Additionally, Dr. Cordt Kassner, Publisher, and Dr. Joy Berger, Editor in Chief, welcome your [feedback](#) regarding content of Hospice & Palliative Care Today. **Unsubscribe:** Hospice & Palliative Care Today is a free subscription email. If you believe you have received this email in error, or if you no longer wish to receive Hospice & Palliative Care Today, please unsubscribe [here](#) or reply to this email with the message “Unsubscribe”. Thank you.