

## Cordt Kassner

---

**From:** Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter  
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 4:00 AM  
**To:** Cordt Kassner  
**Subject:** Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 04/17/24

### OUR SPONSORS

[Teleios](#)

[LMHPCO](#)

[Composing Life](#)

[Hospice Analytics](#)



**HOSPICE &  
PALLIATIVE CARE  
TODAY**

## April 17th, 2024

### Contents

- [1. NHPCO's CaringInfo program launches new consumer blog, insights](#)
- [2. Canyon Lake Hospice Care extends compassionate services to El Cajon community](#)
- [3. Medi Home Health and Hospice comes to Culpeper](#)
- [4. In two states, transforming the model for palliative care \[CA & HI\]](#)
- [5. Shared decision-making between nephrologists, patients' key to conservative kidney management](#)
- [6. Primrose Hospice utilising Minecraft to help children through bereavement](#)
- [7. Health Care Fraud and Abuse 2023 Year in Review](#)
- [8. CMMI's proposed TEAM Model offers another risk-based opportunity for home health providers](#)
- [9. 'I'm dying, you're not': Those terminally ill ask more states to legalize physician-assisted death](#)
- [10. To stand pat or not: When home health providers should expand service offerings](#)

11. [Remote SNF monitoring partnership promises 25 percent rehospitalization reduction](#)
12. [VR off a smartphone? Tech breakthrough could allow seniors to do away with clunky headsets](#)
13. [Houston hospital says doctor's changes to a database made patients ineligible for liver transplants](#)
14. [From Hardship to Healing: The power of gratitude](#)
15. [Experts say Shannen Doherty's approach to cancer diagnosis can be helpful](#)
16. [Implementing spiritual care education into the teaching of palliative medicine: An outcome evaluation](#)
17. [Health Talk: Getting into a health care career](#)
18. [Hospices call on Government to help fund rising staff bill](#)
19. [Funding boost for crucial hospice care, Welsh Government announces](#)
20. [Today's Encouragement: Leadership is not ...](#)

## Headlines

### **[NHPCO's CaringInfo program launches new consumer blog, insights](#)**

*NHPCO Press Release; 4/15/24*

CaringInfo, a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), has launched a new consumer blog, *Insights*, offering timely and practical content on serious-illness care and services from a variety of perspectives in both English and Spanish. ... CaringInfo also offers more information about advance directives and free advance directives and instructions for all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and Washington DC in both English and Spanish, downloadable as PDF files.

## Hospice Provider News

### **[Canyon Lake Hospice Care extends compassionate services to El Cajon community](#)**

*Iowanews Headlines; 4/12/24*

Canyon Lake Hospice Care, known for its unwavering commitment to providing compassionate end-of-life support, is extending its services to the El Cajon community. This expansion heralds a significant milestone, not just for Canyon

Lake Hospice Care, but also for the residents of El Cajon who seek specialized hospice care.

### **Medi Home Health and Hospice comes to Culpeper**

*Culpeper Star-Exponent, by Richard Horner; 4/13/24*

Medi Home Health and Hospice held a grand opening celebration for its new Culpeper (VA) location on Tuesday. Sponsored by the Culpeper County Chamber of Commerce, Medi is an arm of Medical Services of America, which offers home health and hospice care. It had several locations throughout the mid-Atlantic region of the United States, including Virginia. According to Ashley McDonald, director of marketing for Medi, the business offers in-home care, including various forms of therapy and nursing care. Medi also offers hospice and palliative care.



**Accelerate Impact**  
**Accelerate Influence**  
**Accelerate Innovation**

*Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today*

## **Palliative Care Provider News**

### **In two states, transforming the model for palliative care [CA & HI]**

*Undark, by Meredith Lidard Kleeman; 4/16/24*

"Being ill is like a full-time job," said Andrew E. Kaufman, a 60-year-old author. Kaufman lives with myasthenia gravis, a neuromuscular disease, as well as other chronic conditions, and his self-care requires a lot of time — and communication. The cascade of his own needs "is frustrating and causes anxiety and a whole host of issues." Lucky for Kaufman, he lives in California, where he has help from a palliative care team. California is one of the first states in the country to require insurance companies that administer Medicaid benefits to fully cover palliative care services for eligible residents.

*Editor's Note: Click on the title's link to read more, as this use redefines "palliative care."*

## **Clinical News**

## **Shared decision-making between nephrologists, patients' key to conservative kidney management**

*Healio, by Mark E. Neumann; 4/15/24*

... Conservative kidney management: Patients who decline dialysis treatment do so for many reasons, Fahad Saeed, MB, BS, and colleagues wrote in a paper published in the *American Journal of Nephrology*. Patients told researchers that quality of life; fewer symptoms caused by dialysis; more personal time; avoiding the burden of dialysis, including for family and friends; witnessing a family member or friend on dialysis and wanting to have a peaceful death were reasons to select conservative kidney management.

## **Primrose Hospice utilising Minecraft to help children through bereavement**

*Redditch Standard, UK; 4/13/24*

The Primrose Hospice has been delving into the online gaming world to support children and young people who have someone close to them with a life-limiting illness or are bereaved. Alongside the regular support the popular game Minecraft is used to provide extra therapy. ... The Primrose has received training provided by Ellie Finch who specializes in counselling through video games, such as Minecraft.



## **Regulatory News**

### **Health Care Fraud and Abuse 2023 Year in Review**

*JD Supra; by Kevin Coffey, Meredith Eng, Haley Essner, Rebecca Hsu, Christopher Kim, Tessa Lancaster, Dayna LaPlante, Logan Moore, Angela Powers; 4/12/24*

Polsinelli proudly introduces the Health Care Fraud and Abuse 2023 Year in Review, a comprehensive examination of the evolving landscape surrounding the False Claims Act ("FCA") and fraud & abuse enforcement efforts in the United States. Since its significant amendments in 1986, the FCA has stood as a formidable tool in combating health care fraud, with the Department of Justice reclaiming over \$75 billion in allegedly fraudulent proceeds.

## **CMMI's proposed TEAM Model offers another risk-based opportunity for home health providers**

*Home Health Care News, by Andrew Donlan; 4/15/24*

Last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center announced a new proposed model that will undoubtedly affect home health providers, and also allow them the opportunity to get more involved in value-based care initiatives. The Transforming Episode Accountability Model (TEAM), which would eventually be mandatory if finalized, would have selected acute care hospitals put under full responsibility for the cost – and quality – of care from surgery up until the first 30 days after hospital discharge.

## **Public Policy News**

### **'I'm dying, you're not': Those terminally ill ask more states to legalize physician-assisted death**

*The Washington Post, by Jesse Bedayn, AP; 4/12/24*

On a brisk day at a restaurant outside Chicago, Deb Robertson sat with her teenage grandson to talk about her death. She'll probably miss his high school graduation. ... "Medical aid in dying is not me choosing to die," she says she told her 17-year-old grandson. "I am going to die. But it is my way of having a little bit more control over what it looks like in the end." ... At least 12 states currently have bills that would legalize physician-assisted death. ... Two states have gone in the opposite direction. ...



## **Post-Acute Care News**

### **To stand pat or not: When home health providers should expand service offerings**

*Home Health Care News, by Joyce Famakinwa; 4/12/24*

When it comes to expanding their business portfolios, home health leaders can continue to do what they know best, or they can decide to branch out. Leaders at companies like Choice Health at Home and The LTM Group have found themselves in this exact position. As a result, they have created a framework for determining when to diversify their business portfolios versus when to focus on developing their core care services. ...

## **Technology / Innovations News**

### **Remote SNF monitoring partnership promises 25 percent rehospitalization reduction**

*McKnights Senior Living, by Josh Henreckson; 4/15/24*

A new partnership between technology company Circadia Health and 81 skilled nursing facilities operated by Ciena Healthcare aims to significantly improve preventive care and reduce preventable rehospitalizations. Circadia's C100 remote monitoring devices ... will be installed in residents' rooms. They are capable of continuously monitoring key vital signs like residents' breathing rate, heart rate and unusual motions and compare them with personalized profiles.

### **VR off a smartphone? Tech breakthrough could allow seniors to do away with clunky headsets**

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

Virtual reality is becoming more and more popular among older adults. Could the next innovation allow them to experience VR from their smartphone? A full-color, three-dimensional display can be generated off of a smartphone screen, according to new research. Such a breakthrough would make it even easier, and cost-effective, for senior living providers to offer VR and augmented reality content for residents or allow for new telehealth opportunities. The technology would involve only a smartphone screen and a second screen called a "spatial light modulator" to create the multi-layered image

*Editor's Note: On 2/23/24 we posted "[We gave palliative care patients VR therapy. More than 50% said it helped reduce pain and depression symptoms](#)"*



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

*Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today*

## Ethics

### **Houston hospital says doctor's changes to a database made patients ineligible for liver transplants**

*NBC News 13; by Jamie Stengle and Carla K. Johnson, The Associated Press; 4/12/24*

A Houston hospital has halted its liver and kidney transplant programs after it says a doctor manipulated a database for liver transplant patients, making them ineligible to receive a new organ. ... Data from OPTN [The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network] shows that four patients died or became too ill for a transplant in 2021, 11 in 2022, 14 in 2023, and so far this year, that number was at five.

## General News

### **From Hardship to Healing: The power of gratitude**

*Everyday Health, by Simran Malhotra, MD; 4/15/24*

This is my journey of previvorship in a nutshell: In a span of six years, between ages 26 and 32, I welcomed two children within 19 months, worked a full-time job during early motherhood as a palliative care physician, served on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic, and underwent multiple breast cancer risk-reducing surgeries in 2020. When people hear my story, I often get asked the same question repeatedly: "How did you handle all that?" ...

### **Experts say Shannen Doherty's approach to cancer diagnosis can be helpful**

*Today Headline; 4/16/24*

Shannen Doherty, the actor best known for her role in "Beverly Hills, 90210," has stage 4 cancer. She's getting rid of her material possessions so she can focus on spending time with her mother. On an episode of her podcast, "Let's Be Clear

With Shannen Doherty," released on April 1, the actor said she wants to sell off some of her stuff so her mother doesn't have to worry about dealing with it if she dies. ... She also said she hopes to use that money to travel with her mom without dipping into her savings.

## Education

### **Implementing spiritual care education into the teaching of palliative medicine: An outcome evaluation**

*BMC Medical Education; by Yann-Nicolas Batzler, Nicola Stricker, Simone Bakus, Manuela Schallenburger, Jacqueline Schwartz, and Martin Neukirchen; 4/15/24*

Objective: This is a novel, interprofessional approach in teaching undergraduate medical students about spiritual care in the format of a seminar. The aim of this study is to assess if an increase in knowledge about spiritual care in the clinical context is achievable with this format. ... Conclusions: We conclude that implementing spiritual care education following an interprofessional approach into existing medical curricula, e.g. palliative medicine, is feasible and well perceived among medical students. ...

*Editor's Note (from a board certified hospice chaplain): This research is international in its scope and use. "Spiritual care" is broader ("meaning, purpose, connectedness") and more personal than "religious care" (specific to a religious institution's dogma and rituals). Excellent resources are throughout the Association for Professional Chaplains' professional certification site. [Click here for APC's "The Impact of Spiritual Care."](#)*

### **Health Talk: Getting into a health care career**

*The Barre Montpelier Times Argus Online, by Peg Bolgioni; 4/13/24*

According to the American Hospital Association, there will be a shortage of up to 3.2 million health care workers by 2026. America will face a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2033 and will need to hire at least 200,000 nurses per year to meet increased demand, and to replace retiring nurses. ... The mission of Southern Vermont Area Health Education Center is to enhance community efforts to grow and sustain the health workforce in southern Vermont. One of the ways we do this is by delivering pathway programs that connect students to health careers. [Click the title's link to read about this event.]



*Editor's Note: How might your organization create similar career engagement and education in your community?*

## International News

### **Hospices call on Government to help fund rising staff bill**

*ShropshireStar.com, United Kingdom; 4/14/24*

Hospices are facing a huge cash shortfall because of a rising staff bill which is putting services at risk, a charity has warned. Hospice UK said the Government must provide cash urgently after its analysis showed hospices will need £120 million to match upcoming pay rises in the NHS. ... Hospice UK said rising costs, such as energy and food prices, together with squeezed donations as people cope with an increased cost of living, mean hospices are currently budgeting for a total deficit of £186 million this year.

*Editor's Note: Increasingly, we are seeing more articles for hospice community fundraisers throughout the UK: England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Repeatedly, the tone is dire; requests are urgent.*

### **Funding boost for crucial hospice care, Welsh Government announces**

*National Health Executive, by Louis Morris; 4/15/24*

The Welsh Government has confirmed that 12 hospices in Wales will receive £4million of funding to continue providing crucial care. The funding will help the network of hospices:

- Maintain services
- Meet staffing costs
- Improve the quality of end-of-life care

*Editor's Note: This continues awareness of the dire financial needs of hospices in the United Kingdom, as reported both yesterday and today in our newsletter. These related news feeds are frequent and urgent.*

## Today's Encouragement

**Leadership is not a license to do less. Leadership is a responsibility to do more. - Simon Sinek**

***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.