

Cordt Kassner

From: Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 4:00 AM
To: Cordt Kassner
Subject: Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 04/18/24

OUR SPONSORS

[Teleios](#)

[LMHPCO](#)

[Composing Life](#)

[Hospice Analytics](#)



**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

April 18th, 2024

Contents

- [1. Health care workers aid community members with end-of-life care directives](#)
- [2. After death of nurses, CT lawmakers look for solutions: 'We just cannot ignore that risk'](#)
- [3. CT Hospice says it can't provide home care under bill to protect healthcare workers](#)
- [4. New hospice care facility set to open its doors in Virginia Beach](#)
- [5. Valley Health and Blue Ridge Hospice collaborate to offer hospice in the hospital program at Shenandoah Memorial Hospital in Woodstock, VA](#)
- [6. AACN spotlights innovative tool for palliative care consultations](#)
- [7. Fairhope Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. buys building to expand services](#)
- [8. Health care system eats away at the doctor-patient relationship](#)
- [9. 5 steps to cutting the red tape that adds to doctor burnout](#)
- [10. Defining metrics for assessing end-of-life care quality in children with cancer](#)
- [11. Terminally ill ask more states for physician-assisted death](#)

12. Over 1,200 medical marijuana cards issued ahead of Qualla Boundary dispensary opening
13. [Virginia] Marijuana advocates celebrate passing of medicinal use bill
14. The association between social connectedness and euthanasia and assisted suicide and related constructs: systematic review
15. Emory University receives \$3.1 million NIH grant to improve quality of life for people with cystic fibrosis
16. Care for Alzheimer's on Medicaid is unorganized, frustrating, inhuman
17. Home care sees largest price jump in history, BLS report finds
18. New phase of Change Healthcare attack begins as hackers leak data
19. Longevity: Why are we all so focused on living longer instead of living better?
20. Death is a part of life – so let's talk about it
21. Today's Encouragement: Thursday mornings ...

Headlines

Health care workers aid community members with end-of-life care directives

The Journal - Martinsburg, WV; by Tom Markland; 4/16/24

Health care workers from Berkeley Medical Center and Hospice of the Panhandle came together on Tuesday to help members of the community learn and assemble various advanced directives concerning end-of-life care. According to a study by the University of Chicago, only 22% of U.S. adults have completed any advanced directive for their end-of-life care. Tuesday's event aimed to help boost that that number in the Eastern Panhandle. As of 2 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon, more t han 35 people had been through the program, completing paperwork for their medical power of attorney, living will or both for free.

*Editor's Note: **We thank and celebrate all hospice and palliative organizations that participated in the National Healthcare Decisions Day, Tuesday April 16, 2024!** Collectively, what significant community engagement you created. Individually for each person with their families, these conversations and actions are underway now and for years ahead, when needed most.*

Hospice Provider News

After death of nurses, CT lawmakers look for solutions: 'We just cannot ignore that risk'

CT Insider, by Ken Dixon, 3/19/24

Home health agencies would have to find out more background information about their patients, and would be reimbursed for providing visiting nurses with escorts to certain homes and neighborhoods under legislation pushed Monday by Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney. ... It was inspired in part by the [murder last year](#) of Joyce Grayson of Brooklyn, Connecticut who was killed in a halfway house for sex offenders in Willimantic, as well as the January death of Ototegile Morulane, a live-in caregiver and citizen of the Republic of Botswana who died in an East Lyme house fire.

Editor's Note: Though this article was appeared in the CT Insider 3/19/24, we are posting it today for context of our next article, "CT Hospice says it can't provide home care under bill to protect healthcare workers," published 4/16/24.

CT Hospice says it can't provide home care under bill to protect healthcare workers

CT News Junkie, by John Ferraro; 4/16/24

Connecticut Hospice has warned lawmakers it will be unable to care for gravely ill patients in their homes under a proposed law aimed at protecting home healthcare workers. At issue is Senate Bill 1, which would require organizations that care for people in their homes to conduct background checks on the clients and anyone in the location where care is being given. ... Barbara Pearce, the chief executive officer of Connecticut Hospice, urged lawmakers to remove Connecticut Hospice from entities that would be required to conduct those background checks, noting that the organization which provides end-of-life care is typically called into homes when a patient has days left to live. "Our national hospice organization could find no similar bill in any other state," Pearce wrote in testimony to the Public Health Committee. "This bill is too broad, too unclear as to requirements, not guaranteed to achieve its aims, duplicative of other procedures required in hospice care, and contradictory to certain regulations of Medicare." ...

Editor's Note: See the previous article in our newsletter today, After death of nurses, CT lawmakers look for solutions: 'We just cannot ignore that risk'.



Accelerate Impact
Accelerate Influence
Accelerate Innovation

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

New hospice care facility set to open its doors in Virginia Beach

13NewsNow, Virginia Beach; 4/16/24, updated 4/17/24

... The growing need for hospice care was addressed in Old Dominion University's "The State of the Region" report, which noted that Hampton Roads needs 45 beds to care for thousands of residents with life-limiting illnesses every year. ... Dozoretz [Hospice House of Hampton Roads] will provide 12 beds, as well as a bereavement center and grief support groups for families. ... The City of Virginia Beach donated 2.5 acres of land on Upton Drive for the \$10,930,000 project. ... Construction on the facility began in March 2023. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for next week. ... The senior living community Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay is partnering with Beth Sholom Village to operate and manage the hospice house.

Valley Health and Blue Ridge Hospice collaborate to offer hospice in the hospital program at Shenandoah Memorial Hospital in Woodstock, VA

Valley Health Press Release; 4/15/24

Valley Health and Blue Ridge Hospice have expanded their collaborative Hospice in the Hospital program to Shenandoah Memorial Hospital in Woodstock, VA. On April 1, the two signed an agreement for Blue Ridge Hospice to work alongside the hospital's care team to provide supplemental comfort care services to ensure eligible patients and families receive the most complete and comprehensive care during and after their stay at the hospital.

Palliative Care Provider News

AACN spotlights innovative tool for palliative care consultations

American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN); by Erin Lee, BSN, RN; 4/16/24

The 'Critical Care Nurse' journal, a publication of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), has featured a compelling study on a resourceful tool designed to streamline palliative care referrals. Crafted by a dedicated nurse

practitioner, this tool represents a significant advancement in the practice of critical care. ... At the core of this tool is a straightforward yet powerful scoring system. It evaluates 12 comorbidities and seven contributing factors, assigning points to each to determine the need for palliative care. [Read more for important details about this tool.]

Editor's Role: This AACN article pairs with the research article we posted on 4/2/24, "Integrating palliative care screening in the intensive care unit: A quality improvement project."



Fairhope Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. buys building to expand services

Perry County Tribune; 4/17/24

Fairhope Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. [Lancaster, OH] announced Monday that it has purchased a building at 1319 E. Main St., Lancaster. The building will allow Fairhope to expand its palliative care services by opening a clinic specifically designed for palliative patients. ... Currently, Fairhope serves 300 palliative care patients.

Clinical News

Health care system eats away at the doctor-patient relationship

The Boston Globe; updated 4/17/24

... The system economically rewards throughput (the number of patients seen per unit time) and procedures rather than the time needed to develop an open and communicative doctor-patient relationship. While a good physician might understand the tests and evaluations that are indicated by a presenting medical problem, the excellent clinician knows which tests and evaluations should not be done. This is primarily ascertained by delving into details of the patient's physical, psychological, social, family, and economic history. This process, as James highlights, can lead to collaborative and more effective care. ...

Editor's Note: This article highlights "Dr. Thea James's remarkable work at Boston Medical Center in addressing structural inequity in medical care as a means of

enhancing outcomes brings up an underlying structural problem across the entire medical care system ([“Her health equity message being heard,”](#) April 13, 2024.)

5 steps to cutting the red tape that adds to doctor burnout

American Medical Association (AMA), by Sara Berge, MS; 4/16/24

... Reducing burnout is essential to high-quality patient care and a sustainable health system. The AMA measures and responds to physician burnout, helping drive solutions and interventions. ... Dr. [Kevin] Hopkins identified the five steps below to get rid of regulatory make-work that interferes with patient care and contributes to physician burnout.

- Identify regulatory burdens ...
- Sort and prioritize the issues ...
- Clarify the confusion ...
- Make the change ...
- Quantify the impact ...

[Click on the title's link for more information and AMA resources.]



Defining metrics for assessing end-of-life care quality in children with cancer

Physician's Weekly; 4/16/24

In this study, the researchers sought to define the target population for applying newly developed quality measures in end-of-life (EOL) care for children with cancer. Through a series of nominal groups, panelists addressed the question: “Which children, diagnoses, conditions, or prognoses should be included when examining the quality of EOL care for children with cancer?” ... A team of

pediatric oncology and palliative care clinician-scientists developed a coding structure to analyze responses and identify associated themes and subthemes.

Public Policy News

Terminally ill ask more states for physician-assisted death

Napa Valley Register, Associated Press; 4/16/24

... At least 12 states currently have bills that would legalize physician-assisted death. Eight states and Washington, D.C., already allow it, but only for their own residents. Vermont and Oregon permit any qualifying American to travel to their state for the practice. ... Two states have gone in the opposite direction. Kansas has a bill to further criminalize those who help someone with their physician-assisted death. West Virginia is asking voters to enshrine its current ban into the state constitution. ... The issue is contentious. Opponents have moral objections with the very concept of someone ending their life. Even with safeguards in place, they argue, the decision could be made for the wrong reasons, including depression or pressure from family burdened by their caretaking. ...

Over 1,200 medical marijuana cards issued ahead of Qualla Boundary dispensary opening

Blue Ridge Public Radio News, by Lilly Knoepp; 4/16/24

This Saturday, North Carolina will become the 39th state with access to medical marijuana as the Eastern Band of Cherokee opens the first marijuana dispensary in the state. The Great Smoky Cannabis Company will host a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by a grand opening at 10 a.m. A spokesperson for ECBI said preparations for the opening have involved a variety of stakeholders. ... In March, ... a total of 1,200 cards had been issued. Now, he says, there have been 3,000 applications submitted to the board.



TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

[Virginia] Marijuana advocates celebrate passing of medicinal use bill

ABC TV 13 News - Lynchburg, VA; by Brittany Slaughter; 4/15/24

Virginia NORML is celebrating a win following Governor Youngkin's signing of a bill that expands medical marijuana use protections to public employees, not just private. JM Pedini, Development Director for NORML said a large benefactor from the bill's passage is firefighters who have faced repercussions for legally using weed medically. ... Pedini who also serves as the Executive Director of the State Chapter of Virginia NORML said the original law inadvertently left out public employees when passed in 2021.

Edit or's Note: Virginia NORML is the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Research News

The association between social connectedness and euthanasia and assisted suicide and related constructs: systematic review

BMC Public Health, by Emma Corcoran, Molly Bird, Rachel Batchelor, Nafiso Ahmed, Rebecca Nowland, and Alexandra Pitman; 4/16/24

Background ... Methods ... Results ...

Conclusions: Our findings for all age groups are consistent with a those of a previous systematic review focussed on older adults and suggest that poor social connectedness is not a clear risk factor for EAS or for measures more distally related to EAS. ...

Emory University receives \$3.1 million NIH grant to improve quality of life for people with cystic fibrosis

Emory University, by Brian Katzowitz; 4/16/24

... A new five-year, \$3.1 million grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will help Emory researchers undertake a novel study combining biological, social, and clinical research methods to better understand the underlying processes of these symptoms – and identify opportunities to improve quality of life. ... Dio Kavalieratos, PhD, [is the] director of research for the Emory Palliative Care Center and the study's principal investigator ...

Post-Acute Care News

Care for Alzheimer's on Medicaid is unorganized, frustrating, inhuman

The Indianapolis Star, by Darcy Metcalfe; 4/14/24

What it is like to die of Alzheimer's in America? Without a doubt, it is nothing as it is portrayed on NBC's hit series *This is Us*. At the end of this series, the character Rebecca dies from Alzheimer's and falls peacefully asleep, snugly tucked in her warm bed at home, surrounded by family and 24-hour skilled nursing care.

Throughout the six seasons of *This is Us*, I simultaneously witnessed my father's slow dying from Alzheimer's in a reality that was worlds away from Rebecca's. ...

Home care sees largest price jump in history, BLS report finds

McKnights Home Care, by Adam Healy; 4/15/24

The cost of home care rose faster than ever in the last year, far outpacing inflation across every other healthcare spending category, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' latest Consumer Price Index report. Home care costs rose 14.2% between March 2023 and March 2024 — its most rapid growth since BLS began tracking data for the segment in 2005, according to the CPI. ... During the same period, standard inflation for all medical care services was 2.1%. The costs of hospital services — outpatient hospital services (8.3%), general hospital services (7.5%) and inpatient hospital services (6.9%) — saw the next-highest inflation rates since March 2023, eclipsed only by home care services.

Meanwhile, prices for nursing home and adult day service rose by about 3.9%.

Editor's Note: This article did not specify cost changes for hospice care.

Technology / Innovations News

New phase of Change Healthcare attack begins as hackers leak data

KFF Health News; 4/15/24

RansomHub, a hacking group, is sharing pieces of data stolen in the Change Healthcare cyberattack as it seeks ransom payments. The data include hospital bills and company contracts, Axios says. Meanwhile, UnitedHealth took an \$872 million profit hit from the February attack.

Editor's Note: This post provides links to related articles in Axios, Reuters, The Hill, and Modern Healthcare.

General News

Longevity: Why are we all so focused on living longer instead of living better?

The Montecito Journal, by Deann Zampelli; 4/16/24

I admit it. I am an obit reader. I look at the photo first to see if I know them and then almost reflexively at their age. 89? Not bad. 76? Too early. 56. ... Recently I had a client who came to see me because she wanted to live the next chapter of her life on her own terms, not as her mother did in the last decade of life before dying at the age of 93; bed pans, caregivers, wheelchairs, numerous medications, memory loss and the utter decimation of her life savings. ... In many cultures the elders are revered and live with their families until they die. They aren't just included, they are needed, consulted, and cherished. Not surprisingly, these are often the same cultures that enjoy the healthiest and longest lives. Sadly, Americans are not among them. ...

International News

Death is a part of life – so let's talk about it

Now Then - A Magazine for Sheffield [UK], by Sam Walby; 4/17/24

The Sheffield Life, Loss and Death Festival takes place this May with a mission to break through taboos, awkwardness and anxiety about death and dying. Here's why it's important. Death is universal. We will all die and we are all likely to experience grief at the loss of loved ones. So why are we so squeamish about talking about it? ... The festival, which comes to Sheffield this May, uses all kinds of event formats and venues to engage people in the topic, from exhibitions and 'death cafes' to music performances and open mics.

Today's Encouragement

Thursday mornings are like a Rubik's Cube. You're not sure how it got this complicated, but you're determined to solve it. - Anonymous

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.*