

## Cordt Kassner

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TODAY**

## April 23rd, 2024

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## Hospice Provider News

### **[Man forces himself inside home, robs 2 women, including hospice patient, at gunpoint in north St. Louis](#)**

*NBC 5, St. Louis; by Calrissa Cowley; 4/19/24*

The victim in hospice care was unable to move on her own or call the police during the ordeal. A man is facing charges three days after forcing his way into a north St. Louis home and robbing two 60-year-old women, one of whom was in hospice care, at gunpoint. St. Louis prosecutors charged 46-year-old Ronnie Jackson on Thursday with one count of first-degree robbery, one count of burglary, one count of kidnapping and three counts of armed criminal action. Each charge is a felony.

### **[... Here's how to really value doctors](#)**

*Forbes, by Sachin H. Jain; 4/21/24*

... Here are five steps that the hospitals, health systems and other entities that employ physicians and other healthcare professionals can revalue their work and give it the prominent place of honor it deserves.

1. Welcome and invite clinical perspectives into organizational decision-making. ...

2. Compensate physicians fairly against market wages for their roles and levels of expertise. ...
3. Cease labor arbitrage practices in which physicians are replaced by less expensive, less skilled professionals. ...
4. Recognize and acknowledge the moral tensions healthcare professionals live with every day. ...
5. Ensure that all healthcare workers have access to excellent healthcare benefits. ...

### **[Health Care Access] Black patients with ovarian cancer had lower-quality end-of-life care, study says**

*American Journal of Managed Care (AJMC), by Brooke McCormick; 4/21/24*

Non-Hispanic Black (NHB) patients with ovarian cancer (OC) received lower-quality end-of-life (EOL) care than non-Hispanic White (NHW) patients, according to a study published in *Cancer Research Communications*. ... Although trends and disparities in EOL care among patients with OC are well documented, the researchers noted that the role of health care access (HCA) in quality EOL care has not been well characterized; HCA is comprised of 5 distinct, interrelated care access dimensions, namely affordability, availability, accessibility, accommodation, and acceptability.



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### **Hospice of the Red River Valley celebrates milestone in Heather's House construction**

*Inforum, Fargo, ND; by Michael McGurran; 4/19/24*

An important milestone for a first-of-its-kind Hospice facility in North Dakota, a dream project literally decades in the making. It was just two years ago that staff broke ground on the ambitious project. Heather's House will serve as a "hospital in disguise," a place with 18 beds where family and loved ones can spend their final time together in comfort, rather than in a hospital. It's all fully funded by donors. "You brought to life, a 25-year dream for this community," Hospice of

the Red River Valley Executive Director Tracee Caprol told a crowd of donors on Friday, April 19. "Twenty-five years. You have the hearts, that compassion, the empathy, and a deep seated understanding of the needs of others."

### **Hospice House Crawfish Cook-off is a blazing hit**

*Nola.com, by Andrew Canulette; 4/21/24*

The weather was warm and the crawfish were spicy at the 19th annual Hospice Foundation of the South Crawfish Cook-off held at Slidell's Fritchie Park on April 20. The cook-off is believed to be the single largest one-day event in St. Tammany Parish, and the crowds this year did little to disprove that. More than 60 teams competed for top honors in the cookoff, serving up more than 40,000 pounds of mudbugs for the hungry hordes. ... Officials with the organization recently announced their intention to open a second Hospice House in western St. Tammany Parish.

### **Save A Lot donates 7,000 pounds of food and \$500 to local hospice**

*Hazard Herald [KY], by Justin Begley; 4/18/24*

Save A Lot has once again lent its support by donating seven thousand pounds of food and water, along with a \$500 gift card, to the Greg and Noreen Hospice Center. This year marks the fifth consecutive year that the grocery chain has made such a donation to hospice. Jason Smith, a district manager for Save A Lot, alongside management from other stores, was on hand to unload truckloads of supplies to replenish the hospice's pantry ...



### **Hospice volunteers share their 'why'**

*The Journal, by Lores Morton; 4/21/2024*

From volunteer Lores Morton: Why am I a volunteer for Hospice of the Panhandle? It is for our patient's caregivers, to give them break relief; to share what may be missing with patient's spiritual support; to be a memory keeper — legacy; to give simple visitation; and, also, to volunteer administratively for Light Up a Life. ... From volunteer Kelly Orwig, "My why has evolved, but at the core, is that I love people. I love people who need love. Death and dying are natural, but

over our lives, we've been socialized to fear death to the point that we fear those who are dying. ...."

## Palliative Care Provider News

### **Primary and specialty palliative care utilization at a regional Burn center**

*Oxford Academic / Journal of Burn Care & Research; by Zoe Tao, MD, Alexandra Hoffman, BS, Anna Stecher, MD, Niknam Eshraghi, MD, FACS; 4/20/24*

There is little research informing appropriate specialty palliative care consultation over primary palliative care practice, or the ability of the burn surgeon to perform skills such as effective goals of care discussions. ... There is bias in diverting both primary and specialty palliative care resources toward acutely ill patients and those with less immediate projected mortality may need additional attention.

## Clinical News

### **Hospice nurse plays instrumental role in patient's joy**

*Scottsdale Progress, by Lin Sue Flood; 4/20/24*

You see it at every symphony performance. People so enraptured by the music — their eyes close and their fingers dance in the air. Stuart Brown is one of those people. But as illness began to limit his mobility, the 81-year-old Scottsdale man relinquished the thought of ever attending a live concert again. That's when his Hospice of the Valley nurse secretly reached out to the Phoenix Symphony with a request to hold a small private concert in his Scottsdale home.



## Regulatory News

## **Telehealth Accreditation Program**

*The Joint Commission; 4/20/24*

The Joint Commission has developed a new Telehealth accreditation program (TEL) that will be effective July 1, 2024. This program is intended for health care organizations that exclusively provide care, treatment, and services via telehealth and for health care organizations that provide services via telehealth to another organization's patients.

## **Md. health dept. processed 1.5 million Medicaid enrollees in 12 months; one month left in 'unwinding'**

*Maryland Matters, by Danielle J. Brown; 4/19/24*

... Prior to the pandemic people with Medicaid insurance had to reapply annually. Medicaid terminations were paused over the COVID pandemic in order to ensure people were covered during a global health crisis. But starting in 2023, Medicaid re-enrollments were no longer automatic, and people had to reenroll in the program to continue coverage in a period often referred to as the 'Medicaid unwind.' ... At the start of the unwinding period, the data show that there were about 1,787,000 people enrolled in Medicaid in March 2023. A year later, there are 1,690,000 people covered by the program. ... But most of the terminations are due to what are called "procedural terminations," which means that someone either did not start or did not complete their Medicaid reapplication. ... People with procedural terminations have short window after losing coverage when they can reapply to Medicaid and get covered again if they are still eligible.

## **Public Policy News**

### **Lawmakers mull bills to ensure hospice, home health worker safety**

*Hospice News, by Holly Vossel; 4/19/24*

Lawmakers in Connecticut and Vermont have recently introduced legislation aimed at protecting hospice and home health workers. Some stakeholders worry that the laws may impact care continuity among vulnerable homebound terminally ill populations lacking end-of-life support.

*Notable mentions: Barbara Pearce, Connecticut Hospice; Jill Mazza Olson, VNA of Vermont.*



# HOSPICE ANALYTICS

TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

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## Post-Acute Care News

### **Change in long-term care: Nursing homes across U.S. closing**

*limaohio.com, by Precious Grundy; 4/19/24*

... According to the American Health Care Association website, more than 1,000 nursing homes have closed in the United States since 2015. ... According to the Population Reference Bureau website, in 2050 the population older than 65 will increase from 58 million (in 2022) to 82 million in just a few decades. The topic of long-term care will remain in questions. The American Health Care Association also said nursing homes across the United States have closed due to staffing shortages. ... Older adults now have the option of a&nbsp;home health aide, assisted living facilities and family caregivers.

*Editor's Note: How is this trend playing out in your service area? How do these closures impact hospital discharges? Your referral sources? Your hospice patients in skilled nursing facilities and memory care units? Acuity of patient care needs in the home, assisted living? Hospital-in-the-home? The palliative care services you provide?*

### **Home care industry slams finalized 80-20 Rule, warns agency closures are coming**

*Home Health Care News, by Andrew Donlan; 4/22/24*

The “Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services” rule has been finalized. Most importantly, the bemoaned “80-20” provision has gone through as proposed, meaning providers will eventually be forced to direct 80% of reimbursement for home- and community-based services (HCBS) to caregiver wages.

... Organizations like the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) and LeadingAge immediately condemned the rule being finalized on Monday. ...

## Technology / Innovations News

### **AI-generated draft replies integrated into health records and physicians' electronic communication**

*JAMA Network; by Ming Tai-Seale, PhD, MPH; Sally L. Baxter, MD, MSc; Florin Vaida, PhD; et al; 4/15/24*

Objective: To investigate the association between Gen AI-drafted replies for patient messages and physician time spent on answering messages and the length of replies.

Conclusions and Relevance: In this QI study, GenAI-drafted replies were associated with significantly increased read time, no change in reply time, significantly increased reply length, and some perceived benefits.

### **Integrating AI in Palliative Care: A comparative perspective**

*ElBlog.PL - Decoding AI: Unveiling the Future of Machine Intelligence, by Roman Rember; 4/19/24*

Jan Gärtner (51), the head of a Palliative Center in Basel, Switzerland, recently shed light on the fundamental differences in the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in palliative care across the United States and Switzerland. ... The Swiss model emphasizes the commencement of palliative care much earlier in the patient's journey. ...

- What are the potential benefits of using AI in palliative care? ...
- Key Challenges and Controversies ...
- Advantages and Disadvantages ...
- Related Main Domains ...

## General News

### **JAMA Revisited, from May 1924: The Promise of a Longer Lifetime**

*JAMA; 4/18/2024.*

Originally published May 10, 1924 | *JAMA*. 1924;82(19):1518-1519.

***Editor's Note: Yes. This article's original date is May 10, 1924; one hundred years ago, shortly after coming through the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-1919.***

Modern hygiene has been described as the reaction against the old fatalistic creed that deaths inevitably occur at a constant rate. The study of vital statistics shows that there is no "iron law of mortality." ... The New York report states that



the increase in the expectation of life has been almost entirely confined to the ages before 35 years. In the future, the health officer must, of necessity, consider steps to be taken to minimize the mortality among those of middle and advanced life. There is much to encourage man today to seek to secure a normal lifetime.

### **Jean Smart to star in end-of-life limited series in works at her SmartAngel Entertainment**

*MSN, by Nellie Andreeva; 4/21/24*

Jean Smart (*Hacks*) is developing a limited series about the relationship between a grandmother and her grandson in the final months of her life, which the Emmy winner will star in and executive produce. ... The poignant and funny story centers around a grandmother, played by Smart, at the end of her life and her 20-something gay grandson who reluctantly becomes her caretaker. He moves into her Catholic senior living facility, where she lives alongside a mix of traditional and hippie nuns.

### **Death Cafes: Where people talk mortality over tea and cake**

*The Week UK, by Chas Newkey-Burdent; 4/18/24*

Once a month, in countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, people are gathering to eat cake and talk about the typically taboo topic of death. At Death Cafes, said Emma Freud in *The Times*, people with a range of interests in the subject come together to discuss "the end of life experience in any of its forms," ... After joining a Death Cafe in Willesden, northwest London, Gaby Wine wrote in *The Jewish Chronicle* that it was "heart-warming" that "while not everyone agrees with one another, everyone shows great respect."

### **Marijuana Legalization Review: A guide for employers in a complex legal landscape**

*Forbes, by Alonzo Martinez; 4/19/24*

As marijuana legalization sweeps across the United States, employers face a complex legal landscape regarding its use among employees. What was once a clear-cut issue of termination for positive drug tests has evolved into a complex assessment, with federal, state, and local laws offering conflicting guidance on how to navigate marijuana use in the workplace.

## **Education**

## **Increasing Hospice CAHPS scores through enhanced caregiver training**

*Hospice News, by Jim Parker; 4/19/24*

Improving education and training for family caregivers may give hospices' quality scores a boost. Maryland-based Hospice of the Chesapeake has introduced a standardized caregiver training program designed to enhance the work they had previously done in this area. After a review of scientific literature, it became clear that nationally, caregiver training was spotty, and this affected families' perceptions of the care their loved one received, Monica Ferebee, clinical manager of hospice at Hospice of the Chesapeake ... More than 70% of hospice patients are primarily cared for by untrained family caregivers with no medical background, Ferebee found. She led Chesapeake's change project to address these concerns, and thereby improve performance on Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) surveys.

*Notable mentions: Monica Ferebee, Hospice of the Chesapeake.*

## **International News**

### **961 nurses get training on palliative care**

*The Daily Star - Healthcare; 4/19/24*

[India:] Palliative Care Society of Bangladesh (PCSB), in collaboration with Kumudini Welfare Trust of Bengal Limited, provided training to the nurses in two phases held on April 2-4 and April 18-19. ... At present, approximately 800,000 people across Bangladesh, including more than 70,000 children, are in need of palliative care.

## **Today's Encouragement**

**If you love the work you are doing, then you will love Tuesday! - Catherine Pulsifer**

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