

Cordt Kassner

From: Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2024 4:00 AM
To: Cordt Kassner
Subject: Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 05/09/24



**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

OUR SPONSORS

[CHAP](#)

[TCG](#)

[LMHPCO](#)

[Composing Life](#)

[Hospice Analytics](#)

[CCCC Webinar](#)

May 9th, 2024

Contents

- [1. Health Equity Data Definitions, Standards, and Stratification: New resource available](#)
- [2. What every family should know about navigating hospice care: The keys to experiencing a peaceful, gentle, and dignified death](#)
- [3. Honoring National Nurses Week: 11 hospital executives' thank-you notes to nurses](#)
- [4. Fresno State honors three with honorary doctorates this commencement season: Nancy Hinds, founder of Hinds Hospice](#)
- [5. Golf tournament raises more than \\$22,000 for local charity](#)
- [6. Fraudulent hospice providers may be moving between states](#)

7. Hudson Valley Hospice celebrates nurses everywhere for their life-changing work
 8. Improving inclusive palliative care for transgender patients
 9. Spiritual distress, hopelessness, and depression in palliative care: Simultaneous concept analysis
 10. Baptist Health settles False Claims allegations for \$1.5M
 11. Hospice Certifying Physician Medicare Enrollment Information
 12. Opioid manufacturer Endo Health Solutions Inc. ordered to pay \$1.536B in criminal fines and forfeiture for distributing misbranded opioid medication
 13. Lawmakers press nursing home chains on corporate spending amid staffing rule fight
 14. Caring for the Caregiver: A Guide for Home Care Providers
 15. HCA accused of withholding pay of 1,000 workers
 16. 4 ways to mitigate breaches and security crises in healthcare
 17. VA extends health coverage to family caregivers of patients who served
 18. Exploring grief: Cleveland Institute of Art student copes with loss through her paintings
 19. 'Take Me Out Feet First' docuseries about end of life options debuts on Amazon Prime Video
 20. Maddy Baloy had only 1 year to live after cancer diagnosis — and chose joy: 'Didn't let anything defy her'
 21. Today's Encouragement: Let us never consider ourselves finished nurses
- ...

Headlines

Health Equity Data Definitions, Standards, and Stratification: New resource available

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; by CMS; May 2024

Resource of health equity-related data definitions, standards, and stratification practices

... This document serves as a technical resource that can be used by organizations and entities, such as providers, states, community organizations, and others, that wish to harmonize with CMS when collecting, stratifying, and/or analyzing health equity-related data. It may also clarify differences in results that may arise when different data standards and definitions are used. This

document includes suggested definitions, standards, and stratification practices for the following sociodemographic elements:

- Race and Ethnicity
- Sex (assigned at birth)
- Gender identity
- Sexual orientation
- Disability status
- Primary Language
- English language proficiency
- Rurality/urbanicity or residence

Editor's Note: Download this 13-page PDF and examine its contents with your hospice and palliative care services.

What every family should know about navigating hospice care: The keys to experiencing a peaceful, gentle, and dignified death

Psychology Today; by Bob Uslander, MD; 5/7/24

... As a physician with 35 years of experience, including 25 years as an emergency physician and 10 years as a palliative and end-of-life care specialist, I've witnessed firsthand the stark realities of palliative and hospice care. ... Let me be clear: Hospice care is an enormous benefit to many people, and I am often awed by the level of compassion and commitment I witness among some hospice staff I encounter. Despite this, there are many gaps, the care can be inconsistent, and hospice care is frequently not the appropriate option for people who are encouraged down that path.

Key Points:

- Families should consider whether hospice aligns with personal values for end-of-life care.
- Families should consider what medical oversight hospice provides.
- And families should consider what enhances quality of life beyond medical care.

Editor's Note: Executive leaders, this is not the typical warm, fuzzy article that you might expect. Examine the hospice care gaps identified by this physician/author, communicated to the public via this well-known journal.

Honoring National Nurses Week: 11 hospital executives' thank-you notes to nurses

Becker's Clinical Leadership; by Mariah Taylor and Kelly Gooch; 5/6/24

The American Nurses Association's theme of National Nurses Week, "Nurses Make the Difference," highlights nursing excellence and how nurses embody the spirit of compassion and care in every healthcare setting. ... [Click on the title's link for] *Becker's* collected messages of appreciation from hospital and health system leaders across the U.S. ...



Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Hospice Provider News

Fresno State honors three with honorary doctorates this commencement season: Nancy Hinds, founder of Hinds Hospice

Fresno State News; 5/7/24

Fresno State will award honorary doctorates to three individuals this year — advocate for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Robert R. Davila; Hinds Hospice founder Nancy Hinds; and Fresno arts proponent Lilia Gonzales-Chavez. ... Nancy Hinds is nationally and internationally recognized for her work with the terminally ill and as the founder of Hinds Hospice, a non-profit hospice and grief organization serving Fresno, Madera and Merced Counties. A 2021 Business Journal article said Hinds' "name is synonymous with compassion and quality care."

Editor's Note: Read more of Nancy's life-story and profound contributions to hospice and palliative care. Congratulations Dr. Nancy Hinds!

Golf tournament raises more than \$22,000 for local charity

Avow Foundation, Naples, FL; Press Release; 5/6/24

On Monday, April 8, Royal Palm Golf Club hosted a Pro-Am tournament to benefit Avow Foundation, raising more than \$22,000 to support Avow's mission to provide hospice, palliative care, and bereavement services to the community.

Their collaborative efforts resulted in a successful tournament, attracting 76 professional and amateur golfers from clubs around Collier County.

Fraudulent hospice providers may be moving between states

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 5/7/24

Fraudulent hospices continue to proliferate, and some may be moving between states to escape regulators. Beginning in 2021, numerous reports emerged of unethical or illegal practices among hundreds of newly licensed hospices, particularly among new companies popping up in California, Texas, Nevada and Arizona. Thus far, California is the only state to take action on the issue, including a moratorium on hospice licensing. The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has also taken steps to bolster program integrity.

Notable mentions: Karen Rubel, Nathan Adelson Hospice.



Accelerate Impact
Accelerate Influence
Accelerate Innovation

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Hudson Valley Hospice celebrates nurses everywhere for their life-changing work

Townsquare Hudson Valley; 5/7/24

Hudson Valley Hospice is celebrating its nurses in all of their roles! From LPNs to registered nurses, nurse case managers to triage nurses, on-call nurses to nurse practitioners, they make a difference each moment of every day in their patients and their loved ones' lives. Hudson Valley Hospice is proud to call many of these heroes their own, with three of them being nominated for Hudson Valley Magazine's 2024 Excellence in Nursing Awards: ... To Hudson Valley Hospice's extraordinary nurses and nurses everywhere, thank you and Happy Nurses Month!

Editor's Note: Hudson Valley Hospice effectively uses the national nurses celebration to thank all nurses (their organization's and others'), honor their persons receiving nursing excellence awards, promote community awareness about their hospice services, and recruit nurses for open roles. Bravo to Hudson Valley Hospice for this great communication!

Clinical News

Improving inclusive palliative care for transgender patients

Hospice News; by Holly Vossel; 5/7/24

... Nearly a quarter (21.3%) of 865 interdisciplinary palliative professionals indicated that they had observed some form of discriminatory care delivered to a transgender patient in a recent [study](#) published in Cambridge University Press' journal Palliative Support Care. Furthermore, 85.3% of study participants said they witnessed disrespectful care, while inadequate and abusive care was observed by 35.9% and 10.3% of palliative teams, respectively. ... [Read more for descriptions and interventions, as discussed with Zachary Fried, licensed clinical social worker and training supervisor of Optum at Home, a subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group.]

Spiritual distress, hopelessness, and depression in palliative care: Simultaneous concept analysis

MDPI; by Helga Martins, Rita S. Silva, Joana Braganca, Joana Romeiro, and Silvia Caldeira; 5/7/24

The results highlight that the three concepts are different but also share some overlapping points. **Spiritual distress** is embedded in the rupture of their spiritual/religious belief systems, a lack of meaning in life, and existential issues. **Hopelessness** is a sense of giving up and an inability to control and fix the patient's situation. Finally, **depression** is a state of sadness with a multi-impaired situation. In conclusion, refining the three concepts in palliative care is essential since it promotes clarification and enhances knowledge development towards intervention.



Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Regulatory News

Baptist Health settles False Claims allegations for \$1.5M

Becker's Hospital Review; by Naomi Diaz; 5/7/24

Jacksonville, FL-based Baptist Health has [agreed](#) to pay \$1.5 million to address accusations of breaching the False Claims Act. The health system allegedly

prompted its subsidiaries to provide discounts up to 50% or more to patients, aiming to incentivize them to acquire or recommend Baptist Health services covered by federal healthcare programs, according to a May 6 Justice Department news release. ... The Anti-Kickback Statute states that individuals in federal healthcare programs cannot get paid for sending others to receive healthcare for which the government pays.

Hospice Certifying Physician Medicare Enrollment Information

Palmetto GBA email; 5/6/24

Pursuant to our authority under section 6405 of the Affordable Care Act, and as part of CMS' larger strategy to address hospice program integrity and quality of care, certifying physicians, including hospice physicians and hospice attending physicians, must be enrolled in or opted-out of Medicare for the hospice service to be paid. Effective June 3, 2024, (delayed from May 1, 2024) CMS will begin implementing edits to enforce this new rule and will deny hospice claims if the physician entered in the Attending field on the claim is not in the Provider Enrollment Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) as an enrolled or opted-out physician.

Opioid manufacturer Endo Health Solutions Inc. ordered to pay \$1.536B in criminal fines and forfeiture for distributing misbranded opioid medication

Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Justice; Press Release; 5/3/24

Endo Health Solutions Inc. (EHSI) was ordered to pay \$1.086 billion in criminal fines and an additional \$450 million in criminal forfeiture — the second-largest set of criminal financial penalties ever levied against a pharmaceutical company — for violations of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act related to the distribution of the opioid medication Opana ER with INTAC (Opana ER). ...



Public Policy News

Lawmakers press nursing home chains on corporate spending amid staffing rule fight

The Hill; by Nathaniel Weixel; 5/6/24

Congressional Democrats demanded information about the corporate spending by the operators of three of the country's largest public, for-profit nursing homes, after the companies said they can't afford the Biden administration's new minimum staffing threshold. In letters sent to the companies Sunday, ... [they] pressed for information about buyouts, dividends, and salaries to executives and shareholders. The lawmakers aim to contrast that with the salaries for nurses and nursing aides, amid widespread industry opposition to the new staffing requirements because they are too costly.

Post-Acute Care News

Caring for the Caregiver: A Guide for Home Care Providers

Forbes; by Joan Ekobena; 5/8/24

This article proposes that nurturing the psychological and physical well-being of caregivers [employees] is essential. It's not just a matter of ethical responsibility but a fundamental factor for maintaining quality care, promoting continuity of care and boosting employee retention. This can create a positive ripple effect, which can not only increase customer satisfaction but also boost business revenue. ... A recent decision by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) underscores the increasing awareness of the need to invest in caregiver wellness.

Editor's Notes: "Caregiver" denotes employees who provide home care, not the family "caregiver" in the home. Guides are listed as "Strategies for Supporting Caregiver Wellness and Mindset."

HCA accused of withholding pay of 1,000 workers

Becker's Hospital Review; by Kelly Gooch; 5/6/24

HCA Healthcare faces a lawsuit alleging its Asheville, N.C.-based Mission Health illegally kept pay from at least 1,000 employees, the *Citizen Times* reported May 6. Sharon McRee — who said she worked as a nonexempt, hourly respiratory therapist at Mission from July 2002 through its 2019 acquisition by Nashville,

Tenn.-based HCA before leaving in July 2022 — alleges she and approximately 1,000 or more employees "clocked in as required and performed the principal activities of their jobs," but their employer "generally did not pay them for all of their time worked," according to the lawsuit, which was accessed by *Becker's*.



Technology / Innovations News

4 ways to mitigate breaches and security crises in healthcare

Health IT Answers; by Matt Betts and Carlos Estrada; 5/7/24

... In this age of ransomware attacks and data breaches, organizations are turning to the experts in change management: healthcare services partners that have relevant experience with volatile contact volumes and strategies to best support these consumers. When evaluating a solutions partner, focus on these four areas to adequately assess a competitive edge:

- Scale and Access to Resources ...
- Agility and Ability to Reallocate Staff ...
- Effective IT Infrastructure Enablement and Support ...
- Familiarity as a True Partner ...

General News

VA extends health coverage to family caregivers of patients who served

McKnights Home Care; by Adam Healy; 5/6/24

As recognition grows nationally of the needs of unpaid caregivers, family members and caregivers of veterans soon will have more options to receive care through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA). Starting at the end of May, these caregivers will be granted new coverage for audio telehealth services, mental health care and

[more]. ... Telehealth coverage is particularly important for caregiver beneficiaries living in rural areas, the VA noted.

Editor's Note: The CMS Hospice Conditions of Participation identify the family's needs over 400 times. Hospice care locations often change from home to a facility when the home family/caregiver cannot provide needed care.

Exploring grief: Cleveland Institute of Art student copes with loss through her paintings

FreshWater, Cleveland, OH; by Karin Connelly Rice; 5/8/24

Maddie Cantrell, 21, and a painting major at the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA), grew up in the small town of Traveler's Rest, South Carolina, with her grandparents, Alaine and Jim Sosebee, living just around the corner. ... Now a rising senior at CIA, Cantrell has found her art to be an outlet for coping with the sudden deaths of her grandparents. The result of her effort her exhibit is, "Living with Grief," four paintings that illustrate the experience of living with grief, at Hospice of the Western Reserve's The Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Bereavement Center, ... "My work is centered around having to grow up without [my grandparents] and making a bridge between where I exist and where they exist," Cantrell explains of her works. "... How would I speak to them if I could? Or, how would we have a conversation, even though they're not here?" ...



PROVIDING TRUSTWORTHY, OBJECTIVE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Recognizing and Responding to Mental Health Issues in Palliative Care

With Nathan Fairman, MD, MPH

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 | Noon-1:00 (PDT)

1.0 CE available for nurses, social workers, and MFTs

Interesting education opportunity

'Take Me Out Feet First' docuseries about end of life options debuts on Amazon Prime Video

Variety; by Addie Morfoot; 5/7/24

In "Take Me Out Feet First," a new docuseries now streaming on Amazon Prime Video, director Serene Meshel-Dillman chronicles people's right to choose medical aid in dying. The six-part docuseries, made in partnership with the

nonprofit advocacy organization Compassion & Choices, profiles 25 terminally ill people, their families, and friends, as well as experts in the medical field who advocate for MAID. The series chronicles people who have taken control of how their final days will play out. While some live in states where medical aid in dying is legal, some do not.

Maddy Baloy had only 1 year to live after cancer diagnosis — and chose joy: 'Didn't let anything defy her'

People; by Lizzie Hyman; 5/8/24

Even surrounded by loved ones in hospice care at her Florida home, [Maddy Baloy](#) craved adventure. “She kept saying, ‘I want to go outside and go swimming,’” her fiancé Louis Risher tells PEOPLE in this week’s issue. It was how Baloy had approached each day from the time she was diagnosed with terminal cancer in February 2023, to the end of her life on May 2, 2024. In just over one year, the 26 year old gained the admiration and support of millions who followed her journey on TikTok as she worked her way through a 19-item bucket list of skills to learn, people to meet and places to go. “Maddy did not let anything defy her,” Risher, 27, says. “She was always just about love.”

Today's Encouragement

Let us never consider ourselves finished nurses ... we must be learning all of our lives. - Florence Nightingale, 1820-1910

*Editor's Note: Executive leaders, what ongoing learning do you provide for your nurses? Do you always give directives or do you also foster nurses' curiosity, confidence, and increased competence? May we **all** be learning, **all** of our lives. Celebrating National Nurses Week, May 6-12, 2024!*

[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.