

## Cordt Kassner

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**May 13th, 2024**

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## Headlines

### **[At age 99, Jimmy Carter is still exercising his right to vote](#)**

*Story by CNN and Atlanta News First; 5/10/24*

Former President Jimmy Carter, age 99, is still exercising his right to vote. Carter's grandson, Jason Carter, said the nation's 39th president cast a mail-in ballot this week for the May 21 Georgia primary, emphasizing his grandfather is not going to miss an election. The former president entered hospice care more than a year ago in his hometown of Plains, Georgia. Since then he celebrated his 99th birthday last October and [attended](#) the annual Peanut Festival, which celebrates the region's cash crop. He also mourned the loss of his wife, Rosalynn Carter, who died in November at the age of 96. To date, that has been Jimmy Carter's last public appearance.

## Hospice Provider News

## **What nurses really need is better staffing: The common strategies to raise nurse morale need an update**

*Penn LDI - Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics; by Karen Lasater, PhD, RN, and Jane Muir, PhD, APRN; 5/10/24*

Pizza. Coloring books. Goody bags. They could be activities at a 5-year-old's birthday party. But they're not: These are many employers' attempts to lift the morale of nurses on the frontlines of chronically understaffed organizations. What nurses really want are better working conditions so they can deliver the best care possible to their patients. As researchers at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, we asked thousands of nurses why they are leaving their profession. Their answers are straightforward ... In our study, which was published in *JAMA Network Open*, ... The playbook of corporate health care asks nurses to do much with little, but nurses aren't willing to skimp on quality and safety. ...

## **WSNA files unfair labor practice charge against PeaceHealth Southwest after 14 bargaining sessions**

*WSNA - Washington State Nurses Association; 5/9/24*

After 14 negotiation sessions for a new contract, WSNA filed unfair labor practice charges against PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center on behalf of the 1,465 nurses the association represents at the facility. Nearly four months after bargaining began, the parties remain far apart on core contract issues like wages, sick leave benefits, and workplace violence prevention. Their previous contract expired on Feb. 28, 2024. ... One of the key issues over which PeaceHealth Southwest has refused to compromise is pay equity for home health and hospice nurses in the bargaining unit. ... PeaceHealth's proposal would put home health and hospice nurses up to 5% behind their coworkers working at the hospital.



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## **Event raises \$47,000 for Tillery Compassionate Care**

*The Stanly News & Press; by Staff Reports; 5/10/24*

The women of the Old North State Club hosted a dinner recently to benefit Tillery Compassionate Care. About 180 people attended the event on April 27 at the Old North State Club. A cocktail reception was held at the clubhouse before going to member homes for dinner. The event marked 21 years of support for the nonprofit, with more than \$47,000 in donations raised for 2024. Overall, the group has raised more than \$410,000 for Tillery Compassionate Care in 21 years.

## **Sharp Hospicecare breaks ground on Moore Mountainview Hospice in Poway**

*East County Magazine (CA); 5/9/24*

Sharp HospiceCare broke ground on the Moore MountainView Hospice Home in Poway Tuesday, marking the introduction of its fourth hospice residence within San Diego County. Slated to open in early 2025, this homelike facility is designed to provide comfort and specialized care to patients and their families. ... The Moore MountainView Hospice Home is named in recognition of a significant donation from Lori Moore, registered nurse, and her family, founders of the Cushman Foundation. Five generations of the Cushman family have been instrumental in volunteer leadership and philanthropy since the founding of Sharp HealthCare. This enduring legacy continues to impact numerous lives and now extends to Sharp HospiceCare.

## **Palliative Care Provider News**

### **Racial disparities in hospitalization outcomes among women With metastatic breast cancer in the United States by palliative care utilization**

*Cancer Network; by Debu Tripathy, MD; 5/10/24*

**Background:** While studies have reported that members of racial and minority populations hospitalized with metastatic breast cancer (MBC) have lower palliative care use than non-Hispanic White women, disparities in hospital-associated outcomes among inpatients have not been explored in this population. We examined the racial disparities in hospitalization outcomes among adult women with a diagnosis of MBC, stratified by receipt of palliative care.

**Conclusions:** Despite the improvement in palliative care use over the years,

members of racial minority populations continue to have poorer outcomes. However, patients who are Black with MBC who received palliative care had similar in-hospital mortality and were less likely to be discharged to a facility when compared with their White counterparts.



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## Clinical News

### **LifeBio announces partnership with New York State Office for the Aging to capture the legacies of hospice patients**

*KFOL/KJUN HTV10; 5/9/24*

LifeBio has launched a partnership the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) and the Association on Aging in NYS (AANYS) to rollout an innovative life story project to people in hospice care. This is the first initiative of its kind in the U.S. to be supported with funding from a state-level unit on aging. Using the LifeBio Memory app to record the voices of New Yorkers, each participating hospice patient will receive back a Life Story Book containing stories, memories and favorite photos to share with loved ones. Audio files will be saved privately and securely. LifeBio will also offer the option of journals for handwriting the stories.

### **Volunteering in hospice helps Macalester students contemplate death's mysteries up close**

*MSN - Minneapolis Star Tribune; by Katy Read; 5/10/24*

"You think it will never happen to you, that it cannot happen to you, that you are the only person in the world to whom none of these things will ever happen," author Paul Auster wrote about humans' difficulty confronting our own mortality. ... Auster himself died last month at age 77. ... How can humans fully grasp the inevitability of our own death? It's a tough question to answer, maybe close to impossible. Three Macalester College students who just finished a course called the Anthropology of Death and Dying don't have the answer. Their professor, who has spent much of his career studying death as an anthropologist

and a former hospice nurse, doesn't have an answer. A hospice nurse doesn't have the answer. And a hospice patient with lung cancer doesn't have the answer, even knowing he soon will confront its reality firsthand.

### **Utah man angry: "Why am I still alive?"**

*Cat Country 107.3/94.9; by Andy Griffin; 5/10/24*

George Ball (not his real name) is angry. He's dying soon, he knows that. But what he's really mad about is that he's still alive. "I signed the paper. I made the request," he said. "So, why am I still alive?" ... The 72-year-old Utahn recently had a heart attack (cardiac arrest), and was essentially dead for a few minutes before being resuscitated at a Utah hospital. Life-saving measures were taken, including shooting adrenaline into his heart. He was gone, but they brought him back. Happy ending, right? The only problem was, Ball had signed and certified a DNR - a do not resuscitate order -- so that if he, well, died, heroic measures would not be taken to bring him back to life. ...



### **Top ten tips palliative care clinicians should know about the psychiatric manifestations of nonpsychiatric serious illness and treatments**

*Journal of Palliative Medicine; by Gregg A Robbins-Welty, Paul A Riordan, Daniel Shalev, Danielle Chammas, Paul Noufi, Keri O Brenner, Joshua Briscoe, William E Rosa, Jason A Webb; 5/10/24*

... Among patients receiving palliative care (PC), psychiatric comorbidities are common and impact patient quality of life. ... This article, created collaboratively with a team of psychiatric-palliative care experts, is the second in a two-part series examining the bidirectional relationship between medical and psychiatric illness in PC. This article explores 10 prevalent psychiatric manifestations associated with severe illness and its treatment. [Additional access requires journal subscription or additional payment]

### **Impact of implementing serious illness conversations across a comprehensive cancer center using an interdisciplinary approach**

*The American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Care; by Karen Guo, Garrett Wasp, Maxwell Vergo, Matthew Wilson, Megan M Holthoff, Madge E Buus-*

Frank, James J Perry, Amelia M Cullinan; 5/10/24

**Objectives:** (1) Increase Serious Illness Conversation (SIC) use across oncology teams via an interdisciplinary quality improvement (QI) approach and (2) assess patient reported shared decision making (SDM) experiences with clinicians engaged in SIC implementation.

**Results:** Oncology teams screened a total of 538 patients, identified 278 eligible patients, and completed 144 SIC conversations. The teams improved the proportion of documented SIC among eligible patients from near 0% to a collective frequency of 52%.

### **Nurse Practitioner care, scope of practice, and end-of-life outcomes for nursing home residents with dementia**

*JAMA Health Forum - JAMA Network; by Cyrus M. Kosar, PhD; Bishnu B. Thapa, MPA, PhD; Ulrike Muench, RN, PhD; Christopher Santostefano, RN, MPH; Emily A. Gadbois, PhD; Hyesung Oh, MA, MBA; Pedro*

*L. Gozalo, PhD; Momotazur Rahman, PhD; Elizabeth M. White, APRN, PhD; 5/10/24*

**Question:** Is nurse practitioner (NP) care associated with end-of-life outcomes for nursing home residents with Alzheimer disease and related dementias (ADRD), and do these associations differ between states with full vs restrictive NP scope of practice regulations?

**Findings:** The results of this cohort study including 334 618 US nursing home residents with ADRD indicated that decedents with greater NP involvement at end of life had fewer hospitalizations and higher hospice use. The adjusted differences in outcomes between decedents with extensive vs minimal NP care were larger in states with full scope of practice regulations than in states with restrictive regulations.



## **Regulatory News**

## **Planning ahead: How Medicare services at home differ from at-home Medicaid**

*The Mercury; by Janet Colliton; 5/10/24*

When asked how they would like to receive long-term care services many consumers, probably most, indicate they would like to receive them at home. Expectations for extensive help at home with government support often exceed what is available and this, considering shortages in available health care workers and limited funding is likely to continue. However, knowing the differences between what is offered under Medicare versus Medicaid is extremely helpful. ... [Click on the title's link for practical, user-friendly descriptions of Medicare versus Medicaid at home, for short term rehab, hospice, and more.]

## **Public Policy News**

### **House Committee vote gives hope to extending telehealth, hospital at home waivers**

*Health Leaders; by Eric Wicklund; 5/9/24*

The House Ways and Means Committee has voted to advance the Preserving Telehealth, Hospital and Ambulance Access Act (HR 8261), which would, among other things, continue pandemic-era Medicare waivers enacted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for telehealth access and coverage through 2026 and extend the CMS Acute Hospital Care at Home waiver for an additional five years, to the end of 2029.

## **Post-Acute Care News**

### **VA expands burial benefits for veterans**

*VFW - Veterans of Foreign Wars; by Dave Spiva; 5/10/24*

The VA last year announced new burial allowance rates for veterans who have died in nonservice-related incidents since October. ... For nonservice-related deaths, VA will pay a \$948 burial allowance and \$948 for a plot if the veteran died on or after Oct. 1, 2023. If the veteran died between Jan. 5, 2023, and Oct. 1, 2023, VA would pay an \$893 burial allowance and \$893 for a plot. Learn more about allowance rates at <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance>.





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## Technology / Innovations News

### **Can virtual reality help ease the end of life?**

*MDLinx; Originally published on Université de Montréal News; 5/10/24*

A sunny beach under an azure sky in Mexico, a bustling market in Reykjavik, a sparkling lake in Quebec's Laurentians, a string quartet playing Bach... What if we could offer individuals in palliative care a whole range of peaceful, familiar or exhilarating experiences that they could enjoy from the comfort of their chair? What if such experiences could not only allow them to travel, discover, explore and relax, but also decrease their anxiety and physical pain? Neuropsychologist Jhon Alexander Moreno, a professor in Université de Montréal's Department of Psychology and a researcher at the Montreal University Institute of Geriatrics Research Centre, decided to take up the challenge.

*Editor's Note: For a related article that we posted on 2/16/24, visit "[Virtual reality is a tool for education, relaxation for nurses and patients.](#)"*

## General News

### **A Mother's Story: Grieving a child on Mother's Day**


*KEYT3, Santa Barbara, CA; by Patricia Martellotti; 5/10/24*

For many, Mother's Day can be a bittersweet reminder for mothers who have lost a child. Rosy Bucio lost her daughter, Nina, age five from a rare childhood cancer. ... Bucio offers ideas to help those who are grieving cope on Mother's Day. Find out how Hospice of Santa Barbara also helped Bucio through the grieving process on News Channel 3.

## Ridgewood author's book explores the mishaps and inspiration in caring for Mom full-time

*Daily Record; by Marsha A. Stoltz; 5/10/24*

How do you cope when the mother and child roles get reversed? In his book, "A Cup of Tea on the Commode," Ridgewood native Mark Porro recounts his 3½ years of caring for his 89-year-old mother, Genevieve, ... Porro was the least likely of Genevieve's six children to assume charge of her care ... "[A] sense of humor is necessary, no matter how dark," he said. Hence the book's title, a reference to serving his mother a cup of tea "to make Mom's adventures on the commode a tad more pleasant." ...



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## Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and activist Denella Clark join forces to help women giving care to terminally ill loved ones

*MSN / The Boston Globe; by Adrian Walker; 5/11/24*

Ayanna Pressley and Denella James Clark are sisters in a sorority no one wants to join. The congresswoman and the educator-activist are both women who have lost their mothers. Or, more precisely, women who have shared the experience of being principal caregivers to mothers who are terminally ill. ... As they supported each other in the process of grieving, Pressley and Clark thought of the many people — especially the many women — who act as caregivers to their loved ones in the final stages of their lives. So this Mother's Day Weekend they are launching the Pressley-James Lovin' Gestures Fund, which will provide financial help to people providing care to terminally ill close relatives. ...

## Today's Encouragement

**[Post-Mother's Day ...] My mother had a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it. - Mark Twain**

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