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TODAY**

May 28th, 2024

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Headlines

Hospice and the care continuum: Achieving Age-Friendly Care

Hospice News; by Jack Silverstein; 5/23/24

When Jennifer Hale thinks of age-friendly care in hospice, her mind goes first to what might seem an unusual place: man's best friend. As the VP of Clinical Quality and Standards of hospice provider Compassus, Hale views age-friendly care as an approach to care that is "focused specifically on the needs of people as they age in their home setting," she says. That means hospice providers listen to what their patients need and want to make them comfortable and give them dignity at the end of life. Compassus uses its clinical assessment not just to capture a patient's health information but also to inform their goals, hopes and fears. "Age-friendly care certification was another way for us to validate our care model," Hale says. "We worked with Homecare Homebase to implement their person-centered care plan which actually further validated the approach to care that we were already taking."

Hospice Provider News

Hosparus Health opens new multimillion dollar St. Matthews grief center

Louisville Business Journal; by Zak Owens; 5/23/24

Hosparus Health unveils \$4 million grief center on its St. Matthews campus.

[May require subscription to access entire article.]

Editor's Note: Congratulations to my colleagues at Hosparus Health! Previously, this piece of land housed the main building for of Hospice of Louisville, which evolved into Hospice & Palliative of Louisville and later to Hosparus Health. Thank you for having welcomed me into my first hospice roles, for teaching me through our shared years together, and for ongoing generations of your profound, compassionate care.

National Hospice Locator updated

Blog; by Cordt T. Kassner; 5/27/24

*The **National Hospice Locator** (NHL) is a free and publicly available online directory of every known hospice location in the US, and default search results have been sorted by a **quality matrix** for over a year. On 5/22/24, CMS released updated Hospice Care Compare files. Part of the NHL's quality matrix includes Hospice Care Compare information, and the NHL has now been updated. Search your state or city to see how your hospice is listed. For the first time ever, two hospices achieved 100% of possible ranking points - congratulations:*

- *Avow Hospice, FL*
- *Hospice of Miami County, OH*



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Heart to Heart Hospice of San Antonio opens new hospice house

Press release; by Kimberly Dellinger; 5/23/24

Heart to Heart Hospice plans to expand inpatient services with the opening of the only freestanding Hospice House in the San Antonio area. Heart to Heart Hospice, a leader in hospice services since 2003, is currently building a Hospice House as an extension of its service offerings to patients and families in the San Antonio community, opening Summer of 2024.

Opinion: I care for people in their final days. Here's what I've learned about hospice.

San Diego Union-Tribune; by Kim Ann Dang; 5/23/24

[Commentary] Dang, M.D., is a physician specializing in hospice and palliative medicine with Sharp HospiceCare, as well as family medicine with SharpCare, and lives in San Diego. As a doctor specializing in the care of older adults, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that timely, compassionate hospice care can have on patients and their families. Hospice isn't just a service, but a philosophy of care that focuses on enhancing the quality of life for those facing end-of-life diseases. It

supports people in their final months and weeks, ensuring comfort, dignity and respect. ... Hospice is not about hastening death; it's about enriching the quality of the time that remains. I urge health care providers, patients and families to consider hospice care not as a last resort but as an integral part of compassionate, dignified end-of-life care.

Data paramount in hospice-payer, referral partner negotiations

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 5/23/24

As hospice and palliative care providers move further into value-based care, data is becoming paramount to building payer and referral partner relationships. In this climate, hospices that can demonstrate their value — and their ability to financially and operationally weather changes in an evolving reimbursement landscape — will have a leg up on competitors. Key data points include performance on the Hospice Item Set, the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) surveys and other quality measures.



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New CEOs Tapped at Adory, Montgomery, Prince George Hospices

Hospice News; by Holly Vossel; 5/23/24

[Several leadership changes discussed in this article, including:]

- *(WI) Adoray Home Health & Hospice named Mary Aaby as interim CEO.*
- *(MD) Montgomery Hospice & Prince George's Hospice named Karen Brubaker Miller as CEO.*
- *(CO) Care Synergy named Dr. Pradeep Rai as chief medical officer.*
- *(MD) Hospice of the Chesapeake named Monica Escalante as chief strategy and information officer. Escalante currently serves as CEO of Coastal Hospice.*
- *(MD) Hospice of the Chesapeake has also named Brian Berger as COO.*

Clinical News

Oncologists should 'revisit' end-of-life care goals: Yale, MD Anderson study

Becker's Hospital Review; by Ashleigh Hollowell; 5/22/24

Administering more treatments to advanced, end-of-life cancer patients did not increase their length of survival, according to a joint study from researchers at Yale Cancer Center in New Haven, Conn., and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Both the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the National Quality Forum have previously recommended a cancer quality metric aimed at reducing these therapies at the end of life, according to the study, which was published May 16 in JAMA Oncology.

Publisher's Note: See [Systemic Anticancer Therapy and Overall Survival in Patients With Very Advanced Solid Tumors](#) for the JAMA Oncology article.

Nephrologists' perspectives and experiences with hospice among older adults with end-stage kidney disease

Journal of the American Geriatrics Society; by Melissa W Wachterman, Anupallavi Sinha, Tarikwa Leveille, Sushrut S Waikar, Eric Widera, Kai Romero, Barbara Bokhour; 5/22/24


Background: ... *Hospice use among older adults with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) is markedly lower than among older adults with other serious illnesses, and the majority of those with ESKD who use hospice enroll in the last days of life. ...*

Conclusions: *Our findings suggest that, in addition to Medicare policy change, nephrologists need to receive more training in primary palliative care skills including in indications for hospice, initiating conversations about hospice with patients, and collaborating with hospice clinicians to care for these vulnerable patients.*



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Post-Acute Care News

Hospital to Union: Pay up or you're stuck with us in your health plan

Wall Street Journal; by Anna Wilde Mathews; 5/21/24

The 32BJ Health Fund sought to exclude NewYork-Presbyterian hospitals from its health network to control spending. But the hospital system wouldn't walk away without a hefty sum.

Maryland nursing home patients sue state over inspections

Becker's Hospital Review; by Ashleigh Hollowell; 5/20/24

The Maryland Department of Health and Laura Herrera Scott, MD, the state's secretary of health, are being sued by nursing home residents who say their care has been affected by lack of state inspections, dangerous conditions and violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, The Washington Post reported May 17. The nursing home residents filing the lawsuit are being represented by the nonprofit Justice in Aging. They allege that lack of timely inspection as well as neglect in care have left some residents with severe injuries, health complications and ADA rights violations.

US News adds Medicare Advantage data to rankings

Becker's Hospital Review; by Laura Dyrda; 5/22/24

U.S. News & World Report is now including Medicare Advantage data in the rankings

for Best Hospitals, according to a [U.S. News blog post](#). The publication previously relied on Medicare data, but as more beneficiaries opt for commercial Medicare Advantage plans, U.S. News decided to expand its scope. The next set of rankings, scheduled for publication on July 16, will include risk-adjusted mortality rates for Medicare Advantage beneficiaries in 11 adult specialties. U.S. News weighted mortality scores at 36% of the overall ratings with traditional Medicare data. The weight will shift with the combined mortality score from both Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans.



General News

Great leaders in healthcare | 2024

Becker's Hospital Review; by Anna Falvey, Carly Behm, Paige Haeffele, Riz Hatton, Claire Wallace; 5/23/24

Healthcare is rapidly evolving and the best leaders have embraced change and are leading organizations on the forefront of transforming care delivery. The [leaders listed] are using innovative digital technology, novel care delivery approaches and creative care solutions to shape the future of healthcare.

Publisher's Note: The article includes a long list - mostly large hospital system leaders, which is appropriate given the source. It's likely at least one of these people is in your service area. As always, it's interesting to consider who is elected, why, and where they are. A quick word search for "hospice" occurred once, "palliative" not at all - who might be included in a similar "great leaders in hospice and palliative care" list?

25 best places to live: US News

Becker's Hospital Review; by Alan Condon; 5/21/24

Naples, Fla., is the best place to live in the country, with Boise, Idaho, following closely behind, according to [U.S. News & World Report's "150 best places to live in the U.S. in](#)

2024-25" list, published May 21. U.S. News & World Report ranked 150 major U.S. cities across four indexes: quality of life (including crime rates, well-being scores, and availability of healthcare), value (including housing availability and price parity), desirability (including weather temperateness and net migration levels) and the job market (including average salary and unemployment rate).

Education

From theory to practice: Collaboration shows how law and healthcare work together in real life

Iowa College of Law; 5/22/24

A recent workshop collaboration between the [Iowa] College of Law and College of Nursing gave students preparing for both professions an opportunity to learn more about legal and healthcare issues surrounding end-of-life decision-making. The two-hour event, "Navigating the Intersection of Law and Healthcare: An Interactive Workshop for Future Practitioners," brought together students from the Estate Planning and Law & Policy in Action clinics and graduate students in the College of Nursing. Topics included Medical Powers of Attorney (Medical POA), Living Wills, and other decision-making considerations for critical health issues. Elise Fenton, JD Candidate (2025), said the workshop illustrated the difference between how advance directives like Living Wills work in theory versus how they may be utilized in practice.



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Today's Encouragement

For May's Month for Mental Health: If we start being honest about our pain, our anger, and our shortcomings instead of pretending they don't exist, then maybe we'll leave the world a better place than we found it. – Russell Wilson



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