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**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

May 31st, 2024

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Hospice Provider News

The Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care raises \$328,000 at C.A.R.S. Benefit Event

JaxChamber - Jacksonville News (FL); 5/29/24

The Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care is pleased to announce that the recent Children are Rock Stars (C.A.R.S) benefit event, presented by Ring Power and held at The Brumos Collection, raised an impressive \$328,000. "We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ring Power and the dedicated C.A.R.S. committee for their incredible effort and unwavering support, which were instrumental in making this event a success," said Annie Tuttle, Executive Director of The Foundation of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. "Their commitment to our cause and the generous contributions from our donors and sponsors have made a significant impact."

President and CEO of Baxter Health System issues note of thanks to public

Ozark Radio News (AR); by Daniel Williams; 5/29/24

The president and CEO of Baxter Health in Mountain Home recently issued a word of thanks to the public, addressing those who provided help during the emergency situations in Arkansas on the morning of Sunday, May 26th. "I would like to personally thank everyone who was involved in the Code Yellow Disaster event on Sunday morning at Baxter Health. ... Whether it was our ambulance crews who were first on the scene, our physicians, nurses, or ancillary staff at the hospital, or our staff checking on Home Health and Hospice patients for oxygen and other needs, everyone played a crucial role. Additionally, others like Air Evac assisted us in setting up a triage area ... Thank you all very much. I know that there is still a lot to deal with in the aftermath of the storms. Your continued commitment to help is still present and obvious."

Editor's Note: Thank you, Ron Peterson (president and CEO) for exemplifying

community collaboration, leadership, and humanity. News of natural disasters throughout our nation has become normal: tornados, hurricanes, floods, wildfires, blizzards, and more. Behind each incident are hospice patients, caregivers/families, professionals, volunteers, and community services who rally together to provide safety and support. (For our readers, whom might you reach out and thank, for their crucial support through a past crisis?)

Manassas Park teens complete inaugural nurse aide course while earning high school diploma

ABC News 7 Washington DC; by Victoria Sanchez; 5/30/24

Ten Manassas Park seniors completed their high school nurse aide program and are on their way to being certified by the Virginia Board of Nursing, all while earning their diploma. The inaugural Nurse Aide Pathway class is a competitive, five-day-a-week program that teaches the teens 22 skills they need to become a CNA. They also learned outside the classroom during 40 hours of clinical rotations at a local hospice center. ... "This is the best opportunity I could ever have in high school and will forever be one of the best opportunities I ever have in my life," said student Javi Seden Cisneros. He has an eye on earning an MD after becoming a CNA. ... During their time at the hospice center, the 17-year-olds experienced life lessons most of their peers won't learn for years.... [Read more for this inspiring, innovative solution.]



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Hospice patient in Red Wing died after being given morphine by mistake

Bring Me the News (MN); by Tommy Wiita; 5/29/24

A hospice patient at a Red Wing assisted living facility suffering a diabetic emergency died after being given morphine by mistake. A Minnesota Department of Health State Rapid Response Investigative Report found that the allegation of neglect against the Mayo Clinic Hospice at 906 College Way was

substantiated as the staff member "failed to provide timely care, monitoring, and safe medication administration services. The report says the staff member provided five times the resident's prescribed dose of morphine "in error" and didn't provide interventions when the resident was having a seizure and had a critically low blood sugar of 29.

Palliative Care Provider News

Sixth annual Run, Walk n Roll 5K continues mission [more than \$110,000]

Grosse Pointe News; by GPN Staff; 5/29/24

Providing funding for pediatric palliative care is the goal of the sixth annual Run, Walk n Roll 5K. ... [This] year's event is virtual, so participants can run, walk or roll from anywhere throughout the month of June. ... Since its inception, the event has raised nearly \$600,000 for the palliative care program at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. This year's event already has more than 70 sponsors, more than \$110,000 raised and participants on six continents and across the U.S.

New study finds underutilization of early palliative care for patients with advanced cancer mostly attributable to provider and organizational characteristics

American Cancer Society; 5/28/24

A new [study](#) led by researchers at the American Cancer Society (ACS) shows despite considerable growth in early palliative care (PC) use, utilization among patients with advanced cancer remained low from 2010 to 2019. ... Early integration of palliative care is recommended for advanced-stage cancers, but evidence of its use and the role of provider and organizational characteristics in its uptake is limited. ... Early PC was defined as receipt of PC within 90 days post-diagnosis and before hospice admission, if any. ... Study authors stress the large variation between providers and organizations suggest important modifiable provider behaviors and organizational characteristics in early PC receipt, ...

Clinical News

'We don't talk about death': Winston-Salem journalist seeks to help people understand dying, deathbed visions

Fox 8 WGHP - High Point, NC; by Bob Buckley; 5/29/24

There may not be anything that fascinates people more than death. It may be the thing many people avoid confronting the most. "In our culture, we're pretty separated from death. And I don't know the figures, but the vast majority ... take place in hospitals. We don't talk about death a lot in our culture," said Phoebe Zerwick, a journalist based in Winston-Salem who recently wrote about deathbed visions for the New York Times Magazine. ... Zerwick became aware of the work of Dr. Christopher Kerr. ... "The biggest difference between hallucinations and these experiences is how the person is made to feel," Dr. Kerr said. "Most hallucinations leave the person distressed and agitated and would be further confused. These experiences bring comfort. They bring meaning. They're drawn from life. They really validate the life." ... "I think the moral of the story is to be present and to be present with people when they are terminally ill. Be present when they're dying," Zerwick said.

19 myths about dying people need to stop believing

Million Dollar Sense; by Anuradha Supun; 5/29/24

1. Dying is Always Painful ...
2. Dying People Always Lose Consciousness ...
3. You Shouldn't Talk ABOUT Death with a DYing Person ...
4. Morphine Hastens Death ...
5. Dying People Stop Eating and Drinking Because They're Giving Up ...
6. [Click on the title's link to continue reading.]

Post-Acute Care News

Record numbers of nursing homes are shutting down in New England

Boston.com; by Beth Treffeisen; 5/30/24

[Personal story about multiple moves, due to shutdowns:] ... Her dad had to spend his entire life savings on care, about \$400,000. "And now he's being treated like this," Jones said. "He gets moved around, shuffled around like an object." The nursing home closures affect not only the patients, like Jones's father, but also the larger health care system and local communities they serve. Experts in the field say the loss of long-term care facility beds has led to backups in emergency rooms, and family members are leaving the workforce to care for the elderly or sick. ... According to a Boston Federal Reserve [report](#), there were 150 less nursing facilities in New England at the end of fiscal year 2023 than there were at the beginning of 2010, a 15 percent decrease.



Technology / Innovations News

AI, health care and the strange future of medicine

American Medical Association (AMA); transcript of AMA podcast "Moving Medicine," hosted by Todd Unger; 5/28/24

AMA President Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, leads a discussion with three other physicians on the use of AI in health care. Panelists are Claire Novorol, MD, PhD, the founder and chief medical officer of Ada Health, a digital health company

using AI to help diagnose and treat patients; Mark Sendak, MD, MPP, a population health data science lead at Duke Institute for Health Innovation; and Alex Stinard, MD, an emergency room physician and regional medical director of Envision Health Care in Florida.

General News

Over 400 physicians from Delaware's ChristianaCare move to unionize

Portside; by Jennifer Henderson / MedPageToday; 5/28/24

More than 400 physicians from Delaware's Christiana Hospital, Wilmington Hospital, and Middletown Free-standing Emergency Department -- all part of the ChristianaCare health system -- filed to unionize with Doctors Council SEIU Local 10MD. "If successful, this will be the first physician union in Delaware and the first union of any kind at ChristianaCare," Doctors Council SEIU said in an announcement of the filing, which pointed to the ongoing corporatization of medicine as driving the physicians' efforts. Some of the specific concerns that physicians detailed in regard to their filing included understaffing and inadequate resources, corporate influence on medical decision making, limited input in matters affecting patient care and physician safety and autonomy, and moral injury caused by pressure to place profit over patients.

Editor's Note: These "specific concerns" reflect consistent themes with other, recent healthcare unionization and strikes throughout the nation, with specific factors relevant to the scope of the professionals' practice (e.g., physicians vs. nurses).

Suicide rates among cancer patients are falling

U.S. News / HealthDay; by Ernie Mundell; 5/30/24

Even as suicide rates have risen among Americans generally, one group appears to be bucking that trend: People diagnosed with cancer. Experts are crediting improved access to counseling and other "psychosocial care" with easing the emotional toll of cancer and keeping more patients from making tragic decisions.



Other News

Other Business Headlines of Interest, updated 5/30/24 per nasdaq.com

- Adus HomeCare (ADUS: \$110.94)
- Amedisys (AMED: \$95.80)

- BrightSpring Health (BTSG: \$11.49)
- Encompass (EHC: \$84.88)
- Enhabit (EHAB: \$9.15)
- Ensign Group (ENSG: \$116.95)
- HCA Healthcare (HCA: \$331.91)
- Humana (HUM: \$345.42)
- Pennant Group (PNTG: \$23.36)

- Vitas / Chemed Corp (CHE: \$537.00)

Executive Personnel Changes - 5/31/24

- Cedars-Sinair in Los Angeles announced three executive promotions
 - Heitham Hassoun, MD as Chief Executive of Cedars-Sinai International
 - James Laur as Chief Executive of Intellectual Property and Health Ventures
 - Stella Chen as Associate CFO
- Novant Health of Winston Salem, NC has appointed three leaders to new C-suite roles
 - John Gizdic as COO

- Kim Henderson as Chief Administrative Officer
- Onyeka Nchege as Executive Vice President and Chief Digital and Information Officer
- Oregon Health Plan--the state's Medicaid program--has named Emma Sandoe, PhD as Deputy Director
- SSM Health of St. Louis has named Saad Chaudhry as its inaugural Chief Digital Officer

Today's Encouragement

When he worked, he really worked. But when he played, he really PLAYED. — Dr. Seuss

Editor's Note: Celebrating both work and play, have a great Friday and weekend!



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