

Cordt Kassner

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PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

June 2nd, 2024

Sunday newsletters focus on headlines and top read stories of the last week (in order) - enjoy!

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Headlines

Hospice CAHPS scores updated 5/22/24

CMS CAHPS® website; multiple updates posted 5/22/24

CMS has posted numerous CAHPS® Hospice Survey updates. Click on the title's link to access the CMS site. Click on "Care Compare Reporting Updates" or the following 5/22/24 updates:

- [CAHPS Hospice Survey Response Rate](#)
- [Case-Mix Adjustment Methods for CAHPS Hospice Survey Measures Document Posted](#)
- [CAHPS Hospice Survey State Scores Posted](#)
- [CAHPS Hospice Survey National Percentiles Posted](#)

Golfers swing for a cause raising \$15,000 for local nonprofit

Avow Cares; press release by Renee Stoll; 5/28/24

Hadinger Flooring hosted its 17th Annual Classic Golf Tournament on May 9, 2024, at Tiburon Golf Club, raising \$15,000 for local nonprofit Avow. ... The event hosted 150 golfers from various regions around the United States. ... Avow is a nonprofit provider of hospice, palliative care and grief support services.

Stoneridge Hospice expands services with launch of palliative care branch in Scottsdale, Arizona

KNWA Fox24; by EIN Presswire; 5/26/24

Stoneridge Hospice ... is proud to announce the establishment of its newest branch offering [palliative care](#) services in Scottsdale, Arizona. ... This new agency will offer a range of palliative care services, including pain and symptom

management, emotional and spiritual support, coordination of care, and assistance with advanced care planning.



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Avow honors local veterans at 8th Annual Armed Forces Celebration

Avow Cares; Press Release; 5/23/24

Local Veterans from various branches of the military convened at Avow's 8th Annual Armed Forces Celebration. The event, held on May 17 provided a tribute to those who have served or are currently serving our nation with valor and sacrifice. ... This annual celebration not only serves as a day of deep respect and gratitude but also as a crucial part of Avow's ongoing commitment to recognizing the heroic service of our Veterans. Throughout the year, Avow distributes approximately 2,000 pins to honor veterans for their service. ... Avow is a Level 5 Partner with We Honor Veterans, a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) in collaboration with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). In 2023, nearly 25% of all hospice patients admitted to Avow were identified as Veterans.

Experts urge Legislature to pass bill preventing for-profit and private equity hospice in New York

Spectrum News 1; by Susan Arbetter; 5/21/24

The FBI has issued public warnings about hospice fraud in four states — Texas, Arizona, Nevada and California. The bureau is alerting consumers to a widespread scam in which patients are enrolled in hospice without their knowledge by recruiters who "sell" hospice care to people who aren't actually eligible. ... One reason fraudsters have yet to gain a foothold in New York is that new hospices here go through a "Certificate of Need" process (CON) which reviews applications, provides for public comment and ensures that hospice operators don't have a history of fraud or abuse. But according to Jeanne Chirico, president and CEO of the Hospice & Palliative Care Association of NYS (HPCANYS), and Kara Travis, president and CEO of Mountain Valley Hospice & Palliative Care, and a

trustee of HPCANYS, there's more that New York can do to protect consumers. They are urging lawmakers to pass a bill carried by state Sen. Liz Krueger and Assemblymember Amy Paulin that would prohibit the establishment of new for-profit hospices in the state (A6032 - Paulin / S6460 - Krueger).

Addus announces sale of its personal care business in New York

Home Helath Care News; by Andrew Donlan; 5/21/24

Addus HomeCare Corporation is selling its New York personal care business, along with its fiscal intermediary services for the state's consumer-directed care program. The company announced Tuesday that it will offload its New York operations to HCS-Girling, another home-based care provider. The divestment will be worth "up to" \$23 million for Addus, the company said, and the transaction is not yet closed. ... Based in Frisco, Texas, Addus provides home care, home health and hospice services to more than 49,000 consumers across 214 locations spanning 22 states.



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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.

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


Executive Personnel Changes - 5/24/24

- [Blue Shield of California names](#)
 - [Lois Quam as President](#)
 - [Susan Mullaney as Executive Vice President of Strategic Initiatives](#)
- [Humana CEO: Jim Rehtin to succeed Bruce Broussard July 1](#)
- [InnovAge welcome John Koehn as Senior Vice President of External Affairs](#)
- [Providence President and CEO Rod Hochman to retire in 2025](#)
- [University of Pennsylvania Health System names Julia Puchtler as CFO, effective July 1](#)



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 **LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI** 2024 CONFERENCE
HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE ORGANIZATION
JULY 24-26, 2024

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What AccentCare's clinicians wanted from the company's AI implementation

Home Health Care News; by Joyce Famakinwa; 5/23/24

Like many others, AccentCare has embraced artificial intelligence. However, the company wasn't satisfied with implementing generative AI and looping in its clinicians afterwards. Instead, the company made its nurses a part of this process from the start. "It's our philosophy at AccentCare that we don't make changes to clinical practice without having a conversation with the people who are delivering clinical care," Tracy Dent, vice president of clinical operations at AccentCare, told Home Health Care News. "They're the people who are delivering care at the bedside. We want to make sure they have a voice in decisions that are going to impact their ability to do so."

Editor's Note: Pair this with another article in today's newsletter, "Three ways to communicate with Gen-Z—and why it's important."

Hospice Readmission, Hospitalization, and Hospital Death Among Patients Discharged Alive from Hospice

JAMA Network; by Elizabeth A. Luth, Caitlin Brennan, Susan L. Hurley, Veerawat

Phongtankuel, Holly G. Prigerson, Miriam Ryvicker, Hui Shao, Yongkang Zhang; 5/24

This retrospective cohort study of burdensome transitions following live hospice

discharge found that non-Hispanic Black race, short hospice stays, and care from for-profit hospices were associated with higher odds of experiencing a burdensome transition. These findings suggest that changes to clinical practice and policy may reduce the risk of burdensome transitions, such as hospice discharge planning that is incentivized, systematically applied, and tailored to needs of patients at greater risk for burdensome transitions.

Editor Picks

Celebrating the 238 We Honor Veterans Hospice programs!



Today's Encouragement

Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go. ~ TS Eliot



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