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**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

June 13th, 2024

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Hospice Provider News

NPHI: Increase scrutiny of PE hospice transactions

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 6/11/24

Federal regulators should increase scrutiny of private equity activity in the hospice space, according to the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation (NPHI). NPHI is a membership organization comprising more than 100 nonprofit, community-integrated hospice and palliative care providers from 38 states and the District of Columbia. The organization recently submitted comments in response to a Request for Information from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Bluegrass Care Navigators hosts Pikeville Radio Day

WKYT News, Lexington, KY; by Buddy Forbes; 6/11/24

Bluegrass Care Navigators hosted its annual Pikeville Radio Day Tuesday, raising money and increasing awareness about its programs. The event, which partnered with Q95 FM (WQHY) in Prestonsburg, shared stories of hospice patients, outreach programs, and more. "We are raising awareness for patients and their families about what we do here at Bluegrass Care Navigators," said Associate Director of Philanthropy Dawson Barnett. "And then also we're raising money to support the programs that we offer, that are not funded any other way other than their support."

Red River Valley expands services for dual-eligible populations

Hospice News; by Holly Vossel; 6/11/24

North Dakota-based Hospice of the Red River Valley is focused on expanding its home- and community-based services among dual-eligible Medicare and Medicaid populations in need of greater support. Serious and terminally ill patients in lower socioeconomic and underserved regions face several

competing challenges in accessing health care, according to Tracee Capron, executive director at Hospice of the Red River Valley. Developing a sustainable care delivery model that better addresses unmet needs among patients and their families requires significant investment, Capron said.



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Palliative Care Provider News

Key factors for establishing and sustaining a successful palliative radiation oncology program: a survey of the Society for Palliative Radiation Oncology

Annals of Palliative Medicine; by Deborah C Marshall, Kavita Dharmarajan, Randy Wei, Yolanda D Tseng, Jessica Schuster, Joshua A Jones, Candice Johnstone, Tracy Balboni, Simon S Lo, Jared R Robbins

[Palliative Radiation Oncology Programs] PROPS are not widespread, exist mainly within academic centers, are outpatient, have access to palliative care specialists by referral, and have specialized clinical processes for palliative radiation patients. Lack of committed resources was the single most important perceived barrier for initiating or maintaining a PROP. Best practice guidelines, educational resources, access to palliative care specialists and standardized pathways are most important for those who wish to develop a PROP. These insights can inform discussions and help align resources to develop, grow, and maintain a successful PROP.

Palliative care considerations in frail older adults

Annals of Palliative Medicine; by Andrew E Russell, Rachel Denny, Pearl G Lee, Marcos L Montagnini; 6/6/24, online ahead of print

...This paper aims to guide clinicians in providing patientcentered care for older adults with frailty in the outpatient setting. Through a comprehensive literature review, we describe the leading models of frailty, frailty screening tools used in the clinical setting, and the assessment and management of palliative care needs in frail patients. We also describe emerging models of care focusing on palliative care for older adults with frailty and discuss issues related to access to palliative care for this population.

Clinical News

Hope in oncology: Where art and science collide

Medscape; by Sharon Worcester, MA; 6/12/24

Carlos, a 21-year-old, laid in a hospital bed, barely clinging to life. Following a stem cell transplant for leukemia, Carlos had developed a life-threatening case of graft-vs-host disease. But Carlos' mother had faith. "I have hope things will get better," she said, via interpreter, to Richard Leiter, MD, a palliative care doctor in training at that time. "I hope they will," Leiter told her. "I should have stopped there," said Leiter, recounting an early-career lesson on hope during the ASCO Voices session at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2024 annual meeting. "But in my eagerness to show my attending and myself that I could handle this conversation, I kept going, mistakenly." ... Carlos' mother looked Leiter in the eye. "You want him to die," she said. ...

Editor's Note: Click on the title's link to continue reading this insightful reflection and discussion about the importance of "hope." Engage your oncology/palliative/hospice chaplains (hopefully CPE trained and Board Certified) with your medical team members to explore this core belief in "hope." Alert: AI referrals for palliative and hospice care are increasing exponentially. Clinicians must be sensitive to the human dimensions and dynamics of "hope" (which shift and change), and not be driven just by technological data.



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Regulatory News

Got questions about Medicare hospice services? Here are some answers

Forbes; by Diane Omdahl; 6/11/24

Learning about services that Medicare covers, and their cost, is an important discussion topic for Medicare beneficiaries. However, there is one subject that rarely comes up: hospice, end-of-life care for the terminally ill. ... Perhaps a brief Q&A can plant the seed so those who may face an end-of-life situation in the future will know that hospice can help.

- What is hospice? ...
- How long has hospice been around? ...
- What is the patient's situation? ...
- How does hospice work? ...
- What is the cost-sharing when Medicare covers hospice services? ...
- Where can a patient receive hospice care? ...
- How can you find a Medicare-certified hospice? ...
- What is the benefit for the patient's caregivers? ...
- What if the patient has a medical issue not related to the terminal diagnosis? ...
- How does hospice work for those who elected Medicare Advantage? ...
- There's much more to learn [links to resources] ...

Editor's Note: This Forbes' article can be a great resource for your website, staff, and community education.

U.S. Rep. Beth Van Duyne: Crack down on hospice fraud

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 6/12/24

Rep. Beth Van Duyne, (R-Texas) has emerged as one of Washington's most vocal advocates for hospice providers in Congress. ... Van Duyne was among a group of lawmakers that [wrote to](#) CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks LaSure last month requesting updates on the agency's battles against fraudulent providers, as well as a U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) [report](#) on quality issues in the hospice space. Hospice News spoke with Rep. Van Duyne in Washington D.C. on congressional efforts to root out fraud and where they should go next.

Public Policy News

H.R.8278 - Hospice Recertification Flexibility Act: Introduced to Congress

Congress.gov; introduced by Rep. Carol Miller [R-WV-1] on 5/7/24; text released 6/10/24

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend certain telehealth flexibilities with respect to hospice care under the Medicare program, and to establish a modifier for recertifications of hospice care eligibility conducted through telehealth.



Mergers & Acquisition News

Northrim Horizon completes acquisition of Noble Hospice

Investors Observer; PR Newswire; 6/11/24

Northrim Horizon L.P. ("Northrim"), an Arizona -based permanent capital investment firm, today announced its acquisition of Noble Hospice and Palliative Care ("Noble" or the "Company"), a leading provider of hospice services in Arizona. Noble becomes Northrim's fourth acquisition in its broader platform offering a full spectrum of essential home care and hospice services across Arizona.

Post-Acute Care News

Acting now to sustain and improve America's healthcare system: Advice from innovative physicians and health system leaders

SheppardMullin Healthcare Law Blog; by Kathleen O'Neill, John Golembesky, Jeralin Cardoso, Chi Huynh & Carolyn Young; 6/6/24

At [the recent] America's Physician Groups Spring conference in San Diego, California, we listened as physicians and health system leaders described the ways in which they are responding to short and long term challenges to the sustainability of America's healthcare system in its current form. It now stands at a critical juncture, facing challenges such as provider shortages and burnout, increasing concerns around access and cost for pharmaceutical products and other supplies, the increasing burden of managing chronic diseases, rising demand for services across the spectrum from an aging population, and balancing the transition to value-based care models in a predominantly fee-for-service environment. ... Here, we outline the key areas of focus described by leaders at the conference: ...

Nursing homes are left in the dark as more utilities cut power to prevent wildfires

News-Medical.net; by KFF Health News; 6/10/24

When powerful wind gusts created threatening wildfire conditions one day near Boulder, Colorado, the state's largest utility cut power to 52,000 homes and businesses — including Frasier, an assisted living and skilled nursing facility. It was the first time Xcel Energy preemptively switched off electricity in Colorado as a wildfire prevention tool, according to a company official. The practice, also known as public safety power shut-offs, has taken root in California and is spreading elsewhere as a way to keep downed and damaged power lines from sparking blazes and fueling the West's more frequent and intense wildfires.



Technology / Innovations News

Prisma uses VR tech to bring outdoors to hospice patients

UpstateToday.com, Seneca, SC; by Andrea Kelley; 6/8/24

Years ago, Lisa Dwiggin headed out West to visit her father, Bobby Finch. They hopped on his motorcycle — a Harley Davidson — and wound through the canyons, taking in the view. Thanks to a new virtual reality program at Prisma Health Hospice of the Foothills, Dwiggin and Finch were able to visit those places again — together. ... “Those were areas Dad talked about over the years,” Dwiggin told *The Journal*. “He lived in Las Vegas for over 30 years, rode his Harley all through the canyons and up along the coast, and talked about the sunsets at Huntington Beach. It’s been 6 years since Dad has been back there, and he has been trying to get back to visit but his health prevented him from getting back. This program at least allowed him to reminisce the good times he had.” The experience was made even more special because with Tandem VR, Dwiggin could join Finch.

General News

Building bridges before loved ones pass - personal perspective: The loss of a loved one

Psychology Today; by Sarah Rayner; 6/10/24

... Last year I lost my mother ... The only parent I have left is my stepmother. We have had our rows over the years, as she would leap to defend my father so swiftly. Now I appreciate that this was because she loved him deeply and committedly. ... From what I can see, she is going to be with us for a few years. She is an intellectual force of nature and at 88 was granted an honorary doctorate. ... “Wow,” I said, impressed. “You are an inspiration.” She brushed off the compliment. “I’m nothing. You should see my friend, Pam, she is 100! We all have to die sometime,” she said. “We have to make way for the next generation.” ... It’s worth building bridges before loved ones pass. But whether you love or hate your parents, I believe it is often worth building bridges before they pass away, for the sake of both parties. Few people want to look back on the final encounter they had with a loved one regretting all the words left unsaid.

Today's Encouragement

Thursday is the bridge between the hard work of the week and the sweet reward of the weekend. - Anonymous



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