

Cordt Kassner

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TODAY**

June 15th, 2024

Saturday newsletters focus on headlines and research - enjoy!

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Research News

Palliative care in early dementia: A scoping review

Journal of Pain and Symptom Management; by Karen de Sola-Smith, Joni Gilissen, Jenny T van der Steen, Inbal Mayan, Lieve Van den Block, Christine S Ritchie, Lauren J Hunt

The literature on palliative care in early dementia is sparse. Future studies should focus on assessment tools for optimizing timing of palliative care in early dementia, gaining better understanding of patient and family needs during early phases of disease, and providing training for providers and families in long-term relationships and communication around goals of care and future planning.

Patterns of national emergency department utilization by fee-for-service Medicare beneficiaries with dementia

Journal of the American Geriatrics Society; by Jason K Bowman, Christine S Ritchie, Kei Ouchi, James A Tulsky, Joan M Teno; 6/24

Persons with ADRD frequently use the ED—particularly those with recent hospitalizations, rehab/SNF stays, or home health use—and may benefit from targeted interventions during or before the ED encounters to reduce avoidable utilization and ensure goal-concordant care.

Less care at higher cost - The Medicare Advantage paradox

JAMA Internal Medicine; by Adam Gaffney, MD, MPH, Stephanie Woolhandler, MD, MPH, David U. Himmelstein, MD; 6/24

Celebrating a Medicare Advantage (MA) milestone—enrollment in those private plans surpassed 30 million—the health insurance industry's trade group proclaimed MA "a good deal for members and taxpayers." The first part of that claim is debatable, while the second part is false. Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), the nonpartisan agency reporting to Congress, recently estimated that MA overpayments added \$82 billion to taxpayers' costs for

Medicare in 2023 and \$612 billion between 2007 and 2024.

Publisher's Note: "You're getting less care, but at least it costs more" is right in line with my mantra "I may be old, but at least I'm slow"...



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Training Senior Companion Volunteers to identify and report adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation

Journal of Applied Gerontology; by Jessica Bibbo, Courtney Reynolds, Farida Kassim; 6/24

Elder abuse is a national public health challenge that can have dire consequences for the older adults who experience it in any form. The Senior Companion Program presents a unique opportunity to address this public health challenge. An in-person training for Senior Companion volunteers across Ohio on how to recognize and report elder abuse was developed, implemented, and evaluated prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. ... Training older adult volunteers working with other community-dwelling adults is likely a valuable strategy to educate and protect against elder abuse.

Publisher's Note: I wonder if similar training could be incorporated into hospice volunteer, social worker, etc., training?

NeoTalk: Communication skills training for neonatal clinicians

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine; by Katherine F. Guttmann, MD, Malorie Meshkati, MD, Julia Frydman, MD, Cardinale B. Smith, MD, PhD, Lindsay Dow, MD, and Andrea S. Weintraub, MD; 6/24

A multi-disciplinary cohort of NICU providers endorsed increased confidence in key communication skills but not increased skill application 2-months post-

course completion. While a single course can successfully teach skills, additional exposure may be necessary to build new communication habits. Our experience developing NeoTalk helped elucidate some of the ways in which conversations about seriously ill infants may be different from conversations about seriously ill adults.

Loneliness, psychological distress, and the moderating effect of positive aspects of caregiving among cancer caregivers

Supportive Care in Cancer; by JoAnn Jabbari, Kyle A Pitzer, Keisha White Makinde, Jacquelyn J Benson, George Demiris, Debra Parker Oliver, Karla T Washington

The results of this study shed new light on the relationship between loneliness and symptoms of psychological distress experienced by family caregivers of cancer patients, providing a better understanding of the impact that recognition of positive aspects of caregiving has on the association between loneliness and psychological distress symptoms. Our findings emphasize the importance of targeting family caregiver loneliness in order to reduce psychological distress among family caregivers of cancer patients.



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Effects of a discourse intervention on end-of-life knowledge and attitudes of Bachelor of Science in Nursing students

Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing; by Haynes, Jayme G. PhD, RN, Dingley, Catherine PhD, RN, FAAN; 6/24

The findings indicated increased knowledge and positive attitude changes. This study supports the value of theory-based educational interventions, like a discourse intervention, to enhance effective pedagogy when addressing emotionally laden content such as end-of-life care. This study may have also given a glimpse of how a global pandemic may affect end-of-life knowledge and attitudes.

Geriatric conditions and healthcare utilization among older adults living in subsidized housing

Journal of the American Geriatric Society; by Sarah E Kler, L Grisell Diaz-Ramirez, Kira L Ryskina, Sun Young Jeon, Kanan Patel, Thomas K M Cudjoe, Christine S Ritchie, Krista L Harrison, W John Boscardin, Rebecca T Brown; 6/24

Older adults living in subsidized housing have higher hazards of hospitalization and nursing facility utilization compared to those in the general community. Housing-based interventions to optimize aging in place and mitigate risk of nursing facility utilization should consider risk factors including functional impairment and dementia.

International News

“I should’ve been able to decide for myself, but I didn’t want to be left alone.” A qualitative interview study of clients’ ethical challenges and norms regarding decision-making in gender-affirming medical care


Journal of Homosexuality; by Karl Gerritse, MD, MA, PhD, Casper Martens, MSc, Baudewijntje P.C. Kreukels, PhD, Marijke A. Bremmer, MD, Fijgje de Boer, PhD, Bert C. Molewijk, PhD; 6/24

[The Netherlands] This qualitative study aimed to map and provide insight into the ethical challenges and norms of adult transgender and gender diverse (TGD) clients in gender-affirming medical care (GAMC). By doing so, we seek to make an empirical and constructive contribution to the dialogue on and moral inquiry into what good decision-making in GAMC should entail. ... Our findings highlight divergent and dynamic decisional challenges and normative views— both within individual clients and among them. We conclude that there is no single ideal model of good decision-making in GAMC and argue that elucidating and jointly deliberating on decisional norms and challenges should be an inherent part of co-constructing good decision-making.



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Today's Encouragement

The truth is like a lion; you don't have to defend it. Let it loose; it will defend itself. ~Augustine of Hippo



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