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PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

June 16th, 2024

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

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Headlines

[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.

Pride Month 2024: LGBTQ+ Resources for Hospice & Palliative Care Organizations

Compiled from various search engines for our newsletter's readers

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organizations

- [Hospice Foundation of America \(HFA\): Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender \(LGBT\) Resources](#)
 - [On Demand Webinar: Ethical Issues in Effectively Providing LGBTQ-Inclusive Hospice & Palliative Care](#)
- [National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization \(NHPCO\): Hospice and Palliative Care Resource Guide for LGBTQ+ Communities \(2021\)](#)

- [National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice and Hospice Innovation \(NPHI\): Reflections on Pride Month - We've come far, but not far enough \(2021\)](#)

National Aging Organizations

- [AARP: Pride Month 2024 - Ways to Celebrate Across the U.S.](#)
- [SAGE, National Resource Center on LGBT Aging: Ten Tips on Finding LGBT-Affirming Services](#)

Sample Hospice & Palliative Care Providers

- [Fidelis Care Blog: LGBTQIA+ Pride Month, June 2024](#)
- [Hospice Care of the Low Country: Fostering Diversity and Inclusivity in Hospice and Palliative Care](#)
- [Ohio's Hospice: Celebrating Life Stories During Pride Month and Always](#)
- [Stillwater Hospice - LGBT+ Grief Support Group \(ongoing monthly, not limited to Pride Month\)](#)

National Nurses Honor Guard Coalition

Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing; by Betty Ferrell; 6/24

As hospice and palliative care nurses, we are very familiar with the importance of rituals at the end of life or after death, which helps us to honor this sacred time. We know that funeral or memorial services offer a time to honor lives and to provide comfort to families. But how often do we pause to honor our own nursing colleagues for their lives of service?

I recently learned of an incredible organization, the National Nurses Honor Guard Coalition, which is doing just this—honoring nurses through participation in their funeral services to celebrate these lives well lived and lives dedicated to our profession. ... Hearing about the Honor Guard Coalition brought tears to my eyes to think about this incredible tribute to nurses.

Publisher's Note: Thanks for writing about this important group Betty! I also recently learned about the National (and state-specific) Nurses Honor Guard Coalition at

the *Nebraska Hospice & Palliative Care Association* annual conference. A great group with a fantastic mission.



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Geriatric End-of-Life Screening Tool prediction of 6-month mortality in older patients

JAMA Open Network; by Adrian D. Haimovich, MD, PhD, Ryan C. Burke, PhD, MPH, Larry A. Nathanson, MD, David Rubins, MD, R. Andrew Taylor, MD, MHS, Erin K. Kross, MD, Kei Ouchi, MD, MPH, Nathan I. Shapiro, MD, MPH, Mara A. Schonberg, MD, MPH; 5/31/24

In this prognostic study of 82,371 ED encounters within a tertiary care emergency department, the Geriatric End-of-Life Screening Tool (GEST) performed robustly on external validation, identifying 11.6% of the population as having a 30% or greater mortality risk. Compared with serious illness diagnoses, GEST provided a greater net benefit as a screening tool using decision curve analysis. The findings of this prognostic external validation study highlight the opportunity to use pragmatic, prognostic electronic health record algorithms to identify older adults in the emergency department for end-of-life care interventions.

Publisher's Note: See related article posted earlier this week from McKnight's Long-Term Care News, [Screening tool predicts older adults' need for end-of-life care intervention](#).

Stepped palliative care for patients with advanced lung cancer: A randomized clinical trial

JAMA; by Jennifer S. Temel, MD, Vicki A. Jackson, MPH, MD, Areej El-Jawahri, MD,

Simone P. Rinaldi, MSN, ANP-BC, ACHPN, Laura A. Petrillo, MD, Pallavi Kumar, MD, Kathryn A. McGrath, MD, Thomas W. LeBlanc, MD, Arif H. Kamal, MD, Christopher A. Jones, MD, Dustin J. Rabideau, PhD, Nora Horick, MS, Kedie Pintro, MS, Emily R. Gallagher Medeiros, RN, Kathryn E. Post, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, Joseph A. Greer, PhD; 6/24

A stepped-care model, with palliative care visits occurring only at key points in patients' cancer trajectories and using a decrement in QOL to trigger more intensive palliative care exposure, resulted in fewer palliative care visits without diminishing the benefits for patients' QOL. While stepped palliative care was associated with fewer days in hospice, it is a more scalable way to deliver early palliative care to enhance patient-reported outcomes.

Publisher's note: This article was reference earlier this week in [Palliative care for cancer patients is found to be as effective given virtually as in person](#).

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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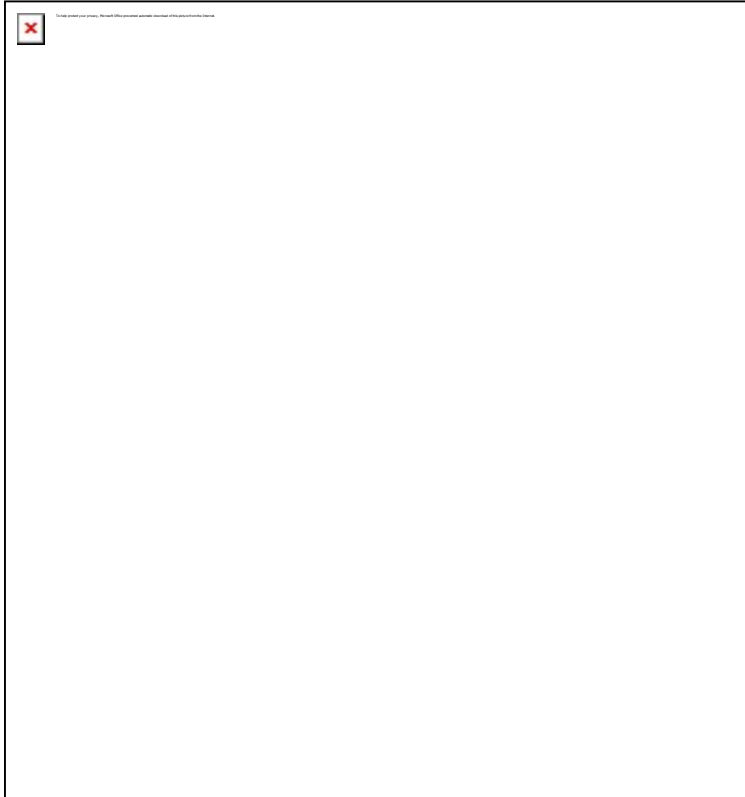
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NPHI: Increase scrutiny of PE hospice transactions

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 (FT C).



Mapped: The highs and lows of the world's happiness landscape

BigThink.com (originally posted in 1440 Daily Digest; by Frank Jacobs; 6/3/24)
The Gallup World Poll reveals regional peaks and valleys of happiness across all of the continents. At a glance, we see that happiness levels are relatively high across the Americas, in Europe and Oceania, and generally lowest across Africa and South Asia. In North America, Canada (6.9) came out on top, happier than the U.S. and Mexico (both 6.7). The least happy country in North America is the Dominican Republic (5.8) — perhaps unfairly, as its bad-to-w orse neighbor Haiti wasn't surveyed.

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.



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: ...

The Aging Revolution: Growing old in America becoming more dignified, but with senior population booming, is nation's health system prepared?

BusinessWire; 6/4/24

A half-century after renowned gerontologist, psychiatrist and author [Dr. Robert Butler](#) ridiculed the nation's medical establishment for ignoring the suffering of older Americans, [Northwell Health](#) today announced the publication of *The Aging Revolution: The History of Geriatric Health Care and What Really Matters to Older Adults*, which chronicles the significant advancements made in improving the physical and emotional health of the nation's rapidly aging population.

How fraudulent hospices evade regulators

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 6/5/24

A slew of fraudulent hospices in California are dodging consequences by shuffling patients around between provider numbers. That's according to multiple sources who spoke with Hospice News, expressing their concerns about patterns of fraud continuing even as government regulators crack down on the sector. Since 2021, numerous media and government reports have emerged of unethical or illegal practices among hundreds of newly licensed hospices, particularly among new companies popping up in California, Texas, Nevada and Arizona. Despite the best efforts of regulators and law enforcement, hospice leaders are concerned that many bad actors are slipping through the cracks. ...



Today's Encouragement

I'm practicing the discipline of not having to have the last word. ~Dallas Willard



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