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**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

June 22nd, 2024

Saturday newsletters focus on headlines and research - enjoy!

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Research News

US Medicare hospice and palliative medicine physician workforce and service delivery in 2008-2020

Journal of Pain and Symptom Management; by Xin Hu, Changchuan Jiang, Qinjin Fan, Kewei Sylvia Shi, Ravi B Parikh, Arif H Kamal, Roger T Anderson, K Robin Yabroff, Xuesong Han; 6/24

Despite growth in Medicare HPM physician workforce, access is disproportionately concentrated in metropolitan and inpatient settings. This may limit receipt of early outpatient specialized palliative care, especially in nonmetropolitan areas.

Narrating final memories from spousal loss: The role of place and quality of death

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine; by Emily L Mroz, Susan Bluck; 8/24

Personal memories of the death of a spouse can guide bereavement adjustment. Place of death and quality of death are end-of-life factors that are likely to influence death experiences and formation of subsequent personal memories. The current study employs narrative content-analysis to examine how place and quality of death relate to affective sequences present in older adults' final memories from the death of their spouse. ... Final memories are carried with the bereaved long after their loss. Positive final memories appear to stem from witnessing a comfortable, medically appropriate death outside of a hospital

setting. End-of-life 'that is' between care and aligned with patients' values for place and treatment may be critical for spouses' formation of constructive final memories and bereavement adjustment.

Editor's Note: Per [Yale press release](#): Emily Mroz, PhD, postdoctoral fellow in the Yale Department of Internal Medicine's Section of Geriatrics, recently received the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) Edie Stark-Shirley Scott Early Achievement Award. The honor is presented annually to a woman in the initial years of a career in thanatology—the study of death, dying, and bereavement—who has distinguished herself through activity in scholarship, service, research, clinical practice, or social action.

Bidirectional associations of depressive symptoms and cognitive function over time

JAMA Network Open; by Jiamin Yin, Amber John, Dorina Cadar; 6/24

In this longitudinal analysis of 8268 eligible participants, greater levels of depressive symptoms at study baseline and an accelerated change in depressive symptoms over time were associated with faster memory decline. In reverse, a steeper change in memory was also reciprocally associated with a more rapid change in depressive symptoms over time.

Publisher's Note: Also see McKnight's Long-Term Care News story [Depression, memory decline trigger each other in older adults, study finds](#).

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Interdisciplinary Pain Board for managing patients with palliative care needs and substance use disorder: A pilot study

Journal of Palliative Medicine; Sarah Hauke Given, Patricia Reid Ponte, Kate

Lally, Isaac S Chua; 6/24

A regular, interdisciplinary team meeting [a palliative care Complex Pain Board] is a feasible and acceptable intervention to help palliative care clinicians manage challenging cases involving patients with cancer and concurrent substance use disorder and /or psychosocial complexity.

Understanding adult hospices caring for children in California, 2018-2021

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care; by Heather A. Davis, Meaghann S. Weaver, Christy Torkildson, Lisa C. Lindley; 6/24

In areas where there are absences of pediatric hospice care, adult hospices are often asked to provide hospice care for children. Little is known about these adult hospices. The purpose of our study was to describe the characteristics of adult hospices in California that provided care to children from 2018 to 2021. ... The 148 hospices in the study had distinct organizational profiles, mainly small, with broad service coverage areas, in rural and urban communities with predominantly nurses visiting children. There was a significant decline (32%) in availability of adult hospices caring for children between 2018 and 2021, particularly in northern California. Hospice economics, lack of familiarity with Medicaid, and staff comfortability with caring for children in hospice, were not driving this decline. Our study provides critical insight into the characteristics of adult hospices in California providing care for children and has important policy implications.

The efficacy of Hospice-In-Place Care versus Traditional Inpatient Care

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care; by Emily Butler, Claire Hanson, Taaseen Khan, Tuzo Mwarumba, Derek Daniels, Maxim Turchan, Kemberlee Bonnet, David Schlundt, Kelly Harper, Marc Bennett, David Charles; 8/24

The hospice-in-place program at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) is available to patients and families who elect for hospice benefits and are too unstable to be transported for hospice care. The goal of this study was to assess the satisfaction of family members of patients who died while hospitalized at VUMC and received hospice-in-place compared to the families of patients who did not receive hospice care. ... Quantitative findings of this study showed improved satisfaction but were unable to show a significant difference in satisfaction with hospice-in-place compared to traditional care. Questionnaire results suggest that both types of care yield high satisfaction scores and are

successfully supporting patients and families. The conceptual framework also adds to the understanding of end-of-life experiences at VUMC.



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Parental history of memory impairment and β -amyloid in cognitively unimpaired older adults

JAMA Neurology; by Mabel Seto, PhD; Timothy J. Hohman, PhD; Elizabeth C. Mormino, PhD; Kathryn V. Papp, PhD; Rebecca E. Amariglio, PhD; Dorene M. Rentz, PsyD; Keith A. Johnson, MD; Aaron P. Schultz, PhD; Reisa A. Sperling, MD; Rachel F. Buckley, PhD; Hyun-Sik Yang, MD; 6/24

In this study, maternal history (at any age) and paternal history of early-onset memory impairment were associated with A β burden among asymptomatic older individuals. Sex-specific parental history may help inform clinicians on likelihood of A β burden in offspring and help identify high-risk individuals at the earliest stages of disease for prevention.

Editor's Note: We posted a descriptive, less data-oriented article that was about this research on 6/21/24, "[Alzheimer's history on maternal side linked to higher disease risk, study finds](#)"

Psychosocial distress among spouses of persons with dementia before and after their partner's death

Journal of the American Geriatrics Society; by Ashwin A Kotwal, Irena Cenzer, Lauren J Hunt, Claire Ankuda, Jacqueline M Torres, Alexander K Smith, Melissa Aldridge, Krista L Harrison; 6/24

Results emphasize a need for clinical and policy approaches to expand support for the psychosocial needs of spouses of partners with dementia in the years before their partner's death rather than only bereavement.

Publisher's Note: Also see McKnight's Long-Term Care News story [Spousal caregivers need emotional support before losses, not just after, study finds](#).

Adapting the Serious Illness Conversation Guide for dementia care

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care; by Charlotte E Berry, Sophie H Montgomery, Robert Santulli, Amelia Cullinan; 8/24

Advance care planning (ACP), a critical component of quality dementia care, is underutilized due to lack of clinician comfort and the challenging nature of ACP in this context. The Serious Illness Conversation Guide (SICG) is a well-validated clinician-facing tool, developed with patient and clinician input, to facilitate ACP. The aim of this project was to adapt the SICG for dementia for the first time to promote high-quality ACP.



Exploring Experiences of Pain Management Among Family Caregivers of Community-Dwelling Older Adults With Dementia

American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Care; by Hui Zhao, Pamela A Kulbok, Ishan C Williams, Carol Manning, Jeongok G Logan, Rafael D Romo; 8/24

Pain is often underreported and under-treated in older adults with dementia. The role of family caregivers (FCGs) in managing pain for their loved ones with dementia living in community has been significantly burdensome. ... Family caregivers follow their values to make decisions in pain management. Barriers existed for effective pain management. Adaptation and support from professional or formal caregivers greatly improved FCGs' perception of their

competence in pain management. The finding underscores the need for further research and the development of interventions aimed at enhancing FCGs' perception of self-efficacy in this crucial aspect of caregiving.

Hospital nurse staffing variation and Covid-19 deaths: A cross-sectional study

International Journal of Nursing Studies; by Karen B. Lasater, Matthew D. McHugh, Linda H. Aiken; 6/24

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Covid-19 mortality varied depending on the hospital where patients were admitted, but it is unknown what aspects of hospitals were important for mitigating preventable deaths. Patients with Covid-19 admitted to hospitals with adequate numbers of RNs caring for patients, a workforce rich in BSN-qualified RNs, and high-quality nurse work environments (both prior to and during the Covid-19 pandemic) were more likely to survive the hospitalization. Bolstering these hospital nursing resources during or ordinary times is necessary to ensure better patient outcomes and emergency-preparedness of hospitals for future public health emergencies.

Publisher's Note: Also see related KFF Health News article [Chronically Understaffed US Hospitals Saw More Covid Deaths, Data Indicate](#).

International News

Psychological health in Palliative Care: Thematic analysis of a psychiatrist's and an art therapist's clinical reflexive journals

Palliative Medicine; by Wen Phei Lim, Roxanne Jia Yu Chew, Clare O'Callaghan; 6/24

This study aims to describe how patients receiving palliative care experience psychological health, explore the meaning of a palliative care clinician's work and contribute to the understanding of psychological health in palliative care through the reflexive and visual journals of clinicians.



Today's Encouragement

If not us, who? If not now, when? ~John F. Kennedy



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