

Cordt Kassner

From: Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:00 AM
To: Cordt Kassner
Subject: Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 06/24/24

OUR SPONSORS

[Teleios Consulting Group](#)

[CHAP](#)

[LMHPCO Conference](#)

[Composing Life](#)

[Hospice Analytics](#)



**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

June 24th, 2024

Contents

- [1. Celebrating palliative and end of life care at King's on Dame Cicely Saunders' birthday](#)
- [2. 92-year-old Victoria woman under hospice care throws first pitch at Generals game](#)
- [3. How health equity impacts hospices' bottom lines](#)
- [4. Silverstone Health expands care continuum beyond hospice, sees skyrocketing census growth](#)
- [5. Tapestry Hospice settles healthcare kickback claims for \\$1.4 million](#)
- [6. The 9 biggest challenges physicians face in daily practice: Survey](#)
- [7. Hospice care company owner sentenced on health care fraud charges](#)
- [8. Unity launches Guide that enhances quality of life for dementia patients and their caregivers](#)

9. [Alzheimer's disease and dementia care: 5 Medicare benefits consumers should know](#)
10. [ASTHO and NAMD call on Congress to fully fund Medicaid and CHIP in U.S. territories](#)
11. [Novant scraps \\$320M hospital deal with CHS](#)
12. [36 hospitals, health systems cutting jobs](#)
13. [The 'Inter-AI' Period: 7 key actions leaders should take now](#)
14. [171K+ clicks saved: Inside Johns Hopkins' nurse documentation revamp](#)
15. [Strong palliative care presence at this year's World Health Assembly](#)
16. [Today's Encouragement: This June, ...](#)

Headlines

[Celebrating palliative and end of life care at King's on Dame Cicely Saunders' birthday](#)

King's College London press release; 6/22/24

On Dame Cicely Saunders' birthday [June 22, 1918], we are taking time to celebrate the work being done at Cicely Saunders Institute in the Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Palliative Care. Dame Cicely Saunders OM DBE (1918-2005) (Nursing, 1944; Medicine, 1957) revolutionised palliative care for the dying by pioneering the modern hospice movement, as well as establishing the Institute of Palliative Care at King's. This lives on in the Cicely Saunders Institute of Palliative Care, Policy & Rehabilitation.

Publisher's Note: Honoring our heros...

Hospice Provider News

[92-year-old Victoria woman under hospice care throws first pitch at Generals game](#)

Victoria Advocate; by Advocate Staff; 6/22/24

A 92-year-old Victoria woman and hospice patient was thrilled to throw the first pitch at a recent Generals game. Virginia Hirsch threw the pitch at the June 15 game at Riverside Stadium after she was nominated by Hospice of South Texas, where she is a patient. Virginia was so excited to be nominated," the woman's daughter Teresa Diefenbach said. "... She said that this was one of the greatest nights she has had in a long time." She is currently under outpatient hospice care due to having a brain tumor and lymphoma. ... Hirsch and her late husband

Daniel Hirsch used to attend games to cheer on their grandson Denver Diefenbach, who was a pitcher for the Generals in 2011. “It was such a special and full-circle moment to see my grandmother, who’s always been one of my biggest supporters, throw out the first pitch for the Victoria Generals,” Diefenbach, the pitcher, said. “This is the same team I played for ..., and it means the world to me. The memories of having my grandparents in the stands cheering me on are something I’ll always cherish. Now, to witness my grandmother taking the mound at the field where I spent my high school and some college years is incredibly inspiring. Her strength and spirit continue to be a guiding light for our family.”

How health equity impacts hospices’ bottom lines

Hospice News; by Holly Vossel; 6/18/24

More hospices nationwide have increasingly recognized the value proposition of expanding their reach into untapped and underserved populations and geographic markets. Aside from increased access, census volumes and quality, health equity’s return on investment can also include a better recruitment and retention outlook, according to David Turner, vice president of special projects and initiatives at St. Croix Hospice, which serves 10 Midwest states. Turner is also CEO and partner of Nashville-based Heart’n Soul Hospice. Hospices stand to benefit from recruiting and retaining a more ethnically diverse base of interdisciplinary workers and c-suite executives, Turner said at the Hospice News Elevate conference in Washington D.C.



Accelerate Results
Accelerate Growth
Accelerate Learning

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Silverstone Health expands care continuum beyond hospice, sees skyrocketing census growth

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 6/19/24

Dallas-based Silverstone Health has expanded its continuum of home-based services while growing its total daily census from 17 patients to 2,000. Silverstone came on the scene in 2020 as a standalone hospice after CEO Alfonso Montiel’s

purchase and rebranding of Comfort Care Hospice in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. Since then, the company has built a palliative care service and is developing a personal care business. In the interim, Silverstone also acquired two small home health agencies for undisclosed amounts, as well as a physician group, according to Montiel.

Tapestry Hospice settles healthcare kickback claims for \$1.4 million

United States Attorney's Office - Northern District of Georgia; Press Release; 6/20/24

Tapestry Hospice of Northwest Georgia, LLC, and its owners and managers, David Lovell, MD, Stephanie Harbour, Ben Harbour, and Andrew Nall (collectively "Tapestry"), agreed to pay \$1.4 million to resolve allegations that they violated the False Claims Act by entering into kickback arrangements with medical directors in exchange for referrals of hospice patients to Tapestry. "By entering into kickback arrangements, health care providers can cause doctors to make medical decisions that are motivated by financial gain, rather than the patient's best interest," said U.S. Attorney Ryan K. Buchanan. "Our office is committed to ensuring the accountability of health care providers who put their own financial needs ahead of their patients." "The False Claims Act settlement in this case will hopefully be a deterrent to those who selfishly evade our federal healthcare programs for their own benefit," said Keri Farley, Special Agent in Charge of FBI Atlanta. "The message is clear, the FBI will not tolerate companies operating corporate-wide schemes to illegally line their pockets."

The 9 biggest challenges physicians face in daily practice: Survey

Becker's Hospital Review; by Ashleigh Hollowell; 6/20/24

... The following challenges are the ones physicians most often ranked as very or somewhat significant as they relate to their day-to-day work:

1. Administrative work — 66%
2. Reimbursement issues — 57%
3. Staffing shortages — 56%
4. Staff turnover — 50%
5. Electronic health record reporting — 50%
6. Billing and coding requirements — 49%
7. Malpractice premiums — 40%
8. Competition from nonphysician practitioners — 33%
9. Collecting payment from self-pay patients — 29%

Physicians ranked telemedicine competition, practice mergers or sale issues, and competition with retail clinics or urgent care clinics as their least significant challenges. Regarding efforts to address these challenges, 56% said they have added nonphysician practitioners to their practice. Others are upgrading technology: 34% reported adding or revamping their patient portals and 32% implemented new scheduling. *MedCentral's* survey polled 864 physicians from April 16 to May 19 and was published June 20.

Editor's Note: How do these challenges compare with your physicians' feedback? Ask. Do not assume. This information can be a great catalyst to initiate empathic outreach to and dialogue with your hospice and palliative physicians and nurse practitioners.



NEW Workshop

Become one of the first to achieve the CHLead® credential.



Healthcare Leadership Certification Workshop

San Diego, CA | October 8-9

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Hospice care company owner sentenced on health care fraud charges

United States Attorney's Office - Western District of Louisiana; Press Release; 6/20/24

United States Attorney Brandon B. Brown announced that Kristal Glover-Wing, 51, formerly a resident of Broussard, Louisiana, and now living in California, has been sentenced for conspiracy to commit health care fraud and three counts of health care fraud. United States District Judge Robert R. Summerhays sentenced Glover-Wing to 72 months in prison, followed by 3 years of supervised release. She was also ordered to pay \$3,675,948.42 in restitution. ... Glover-Wing was the owner of Angel Care Hospice ("Angel Care"), a Louisiana corporation that purported to provide hospice services in Lafayette Parish and other parishes in the Western District of Louisiana. Through evidence presented at trial, jurors learned that from approximately 2009 through 2017, over 24 patients were placed on hospice by Angel Care without meeting the criteria required by

Medicare. During the time period that the patients were on hospice and under the care and supervision of Angel Care, none of them had been diagnosed with a terminal condition. In fact, many of the patients themselves, who are still alive and thriving many years later, as well as family members of other patients, testified that they never knew that they had been placed on hospice.

Clinical News

Unity launches Guide that enhances quality of life for dementia patients and their caregivers

The Chamber - Manitowoc County, De Pere, Wisconsin; Press Release; 6/20/24

In honor of The Longest Day Of The Year which is celebrated on June 20th to raise awareness and outshine the darkness of Alzheimer's disease, Unity, in partnership with National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation (NPHI), announces the release of a new dementia care resources guide that will improve quality of life for dementia and Alzheimer's patients, reduce hospitalizations, and ease the burden for families and caregivers. ... The new guide represents the best standards of care for mid-, advanced-, to end-stage dementia and was put together with the collective input of 100+ not-for-profit hospice, palliative care, and advanced illness care organizations. [Click on the title's link for more information, and to download the free guide.]

Regulatory News

Alzheimer's disease and dementia care: 5 Medicare benefits consumers should know

Globe Newswire, KELOLAND Media Group; by medicareresources.org; 6/19/24

With the Food and Drug Administration's approval of new medications like Leqembi, there's increased focus on ways Medicare can help alleviate the significant costs of Alzheimer's and dementia care. ... "Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia can come with a heavy financial burden as well as an emotional toll, which is why it's critical patients and families understand when and how Medicare can help mitigate costs," said Louise Norris, a health policy analyst for medicareresources.org. "People may be surprised, especially about new coverage of diagnostic tests and medications." ... Here are five critical benefits medicareresources.org says consumers might not know about:

1. Drug coverage
2. PET scans
3. Early-onset Alzheimer's disease
4. Care at an assisted living facility or nursing home
5. Home health



Public Policy News

ASTHO and NAMD call on Congress to fully fund Medicaid and CHIP in U.S. territories

ASTHO - Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; by Jane Esworthy and Stephanie Rhodes; 6/20/24

In a joint letter to Congress, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) urged Congress to fully fund Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) in the U.S. territories. ASTHO and NAMD request that Congress lift the annual Section 1108(g) allotment cap for all territories and authorize a permanent 83% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Puerto Rico. ... "ASTHO recognizes the importance of permanent, sustainable, and equitable Medicaid financing for all U.S. territories," says Joseph Kanter, MD, MPH, ASTHO CEO. ... "Unlike the states, the U.S. territories face an annual cap on their

Medicaid funding,” says Kate McEvoy, Executive Director of NAMD. “This has impaired the territories’ capacity to provide needed health care to Medicaid-eligible U.S. citizens and nationals. It has also held the territories back from making the structural investments in care delivery and value-based payment reform, workforce, IT systems, and program integrity that are crucial to high performing and innovative Medicaid programs.”

Mergers & Acquisition News

Novant scraps \$320M hospital deal with CHS

Becker's Hospital Review; by Alan Condon; 6/18/24

Winston-Salem, N.C.-based Novant Health has called off its planned \$320 million acquisition of two North Carolina hospitals from Community Health Systems after an appellate court [granted](#) the Federal Trade Commission an emergency injunction blocking the deal. In a 2-1 decision, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it would allow the FTC to prevent the two-hospital acquisition from proceeding until its appeal is resolved. ... The FTC argues that the transaction would "irreversibly consolidate the market for hospital services in the Eastern Lake Norman Area in the northern suburbs of Charlotte."

Post-Acute Care News

36 hospitals, health systems cutting jobs

Becker's Hospital CFO Report; by Kelly Gooch; updated 6/21/24

A number of hospitals and health systems are reducing their workforces or jobs due to financial and operational challenges. Below are workforce reduction efforts or job eliminations announced this year. June:

- West Monroe, La.-based Glenwood Regional Medical Center, part of Dallas-based Steward Health Care, laid off 23 employees. ...
- Cleveland-based University Hospitals is reducing its leadership structure by more than 10% as part of more than 300 layoffs. ...
- Portland-based Oregon Health & Science University told staff June 6 that it plans to lay off at least 500 employees, citing financial issues. ...
- [Click on the title's link for the remaining list from Jan-May.]



Technology / Innovations News

The 'Inter-AI' Period: 7 key actions leaders should take now

CEOWorld Magazine; by Nada R. Sanders, PhD; 6/20/24

Generative AI is not transient, part of a hype cycle, or a fleeting trend. It's a game-changing innovation that's opened the door to novel human-machine partnerships, AI-driven superintelligence, and a new way to win in business. In the AI timeline, we've entered "The Inter-AI Period," a small window of opportunity where leaders can shape how they use AI now and in the future. This window of opportunity is short—perhaps a few years at most—after which decision processes embedded in AI will harden. ...&nbs p;By studying transformative AI leaders ... and conducting interviews with dozens of corporate CEOs, we've identified seven key actions every leader should take now:

1. Educate Yourself and Your Teams ...
2. Develop a Clear AI Strategy ...
3. Foster a Data-Driven Culture ...
4. Invest in the Right Technology and Partnerships ...
5. Pilot Projects, Then Scale Up ...
6. Build a Cross-Functional Team ...
7. Emphasize Change Management ...

171K+ clicks saved: Inside Johns Hopkins' nurse documentation revamp

Becker's Clinical Leadership; by Erica Carbajal; 6/17/24

Across healthcare, efforts to advance documentation are often focused on enhancing physicians' workflow. But at Baltimore-based Johns Hopkins Hospital, leaders are equally focused on improving documentation in nursing. ... [The] American Nurses Credentialing Center recognized Johns Hopkins with 10

exemplars, one of which recognized the hospital as a leader in nursing informatics. Case in point: The hospital has saved nurses 170,620 clicks in four months, April Saathoff, DNP, RN, vice president and chief nursing information officer at Johns Hopkins Medicine, told *Becker's*. ... "Instead of the nurse having to go in and document on every single row on a head-to-toe reassessment for the patient, we now have some fields added to the top where the nurse can document reassessment changes noted or reassessed no changes," Dr. Saathoff said, adding that the changes are saving nurses an average of 13 minutes per reassessment.

Editor's Note: What might your organization be able to streamline in your online documentation? Before IT or clinical management decides unilaterally, get input from your clinicians who make the visits and use the system. Include your psychosocial/spiritual care team members as well, as you might change something crucial that they need.

International News

Strong palliative care presence at this year's World Health Assembly

Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance - WHPCA; by Stephen Connor, Executive Director, WHPCA; 6/18/24

Palliative care was well represented at the World Health Assembly (WHA) this year! All together there were twelve delegates from the organisations attending in official relations with WHO (6 from WHPCA and 6 from IAHPC). All attendees covered their expenses. This year is the 10th anniversary of the passage of the Palliative Care Resolution (67.19) "*Strengthening of Palliative Care as a Component of Comprehensive Care Throughout the Life Course.*" ... To use this fact as an opportunity WHPCA organised a side event on the margins of this year's WHA titled: Ten Years Since the WHA Resolution on Palliative Care: Access is Increasing Slowly in LMICs, How Can We Expedite it? The event was co-sponsored by four countries (Australia, Belgium, Chile, and Panama) along with nine NGOs (UICC, ICPCN, IAHPC, NCDA, C/Can, APCA, APHN, UNTF NCDs, and Team Humanity). ... WHPCA is working to create a coalition of countries to advocate for palliative care at upcoming UN meetings.



HOSPICE ANALYTICS

TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Today's Encouragement

This June, remind yourself that the goals worth reaching are often just a season of hard work away. Start today, and reap tomorrow. - Anonymous

Sign up for our free daily newsletters [here!](#)

The Fine Print:

Paywalls: Some links may take readers to articles that either require registration or are behind a paywall. **Disclaimer:** Hospice & Palliative Care Today provides brief summaries of news stories of interest to hospice, palliative, and end-of-life care professionals (typically taken directly from the source article). Hospice & Palliative Care Today is not responsible or liable for the validity or reliability of information in these articles and directs the reader to authors of the source articles for questions or comments. Additionally, Dr. Cordt Kassner, Publisher, and Dr. Joy Berger, Editor in Chief, welcome your [feedback](#) regarding content of Hospice & Palliative Care Today. **Unsubscribe:** Hospice & Palliative Care Today is a free subscription email. If you believe you have received this email in error, or if you no longer wish to receive Hospice & Palliative Care Today, please unsubscribe [here](#) or reply to this email with the message "Unsubscribe". Thank you.