

## Cordt Kassner

---

**From:** Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter  
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 5, 2024 4:00 AM  
**To:** Cordt Kassner  
**Subject:** Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 07/05/24

### OUR SPONSORS

[NPHI](#)

[CHAP](#)

[Teleios Collaborative Network](#)

[LMHPCO](#)

[Composing Life Out of Loss](#)

[Hospice Analytics](#)



**HOSPICE &  
PALLIATIVE CARE  
TODAY**

## July 5th, 2024

### Contents

- [1. UVM Home Health & Hospice raises over \\$128,000](#)
- [2. Diagnosis for 6.26.24: Checking the pulse of Florida health care news and policy \[Certificate of Need\]](#)
- [3. CHAPcast: Top 10 Deficiencies for Home Health and Hospice](#)
- [4. Anxiety and resilience in palliative medicine physicians](#)
- [5. Why Nurses Quit](#)
- [6. Aligning pill burden and palliative care needs in late-stage CVD: AHA](#)
- [7. DOJ slaps \\$20M opioid prescription penalty on OptumRx](#)
- [8. Senior care experts detail how to build a coveted 'destination workplace'](#)
- [9. Grief care efforts should include settings outside of hospice, provider group say](#)
- [10. States with the most rural hospital closures in the past 20 years](#)

11. [6 guidelines from ASCO on AI, cancer care](#)
12. [Hospice Palliative Care Society launches Rec Room programs](#)
13. [Other Business Headlines of Interest, updated 7/3/24 per nasdaq.com](#)
14. [Executive Personnel Changes - 7/5/24](#)
15. [Today's Encouragement: I love being on vacation and ...](#)

## Hospice Provider News

### **[UVM Home Health & Hospice raises over \\$128,000](#)**

*myChamplainValley.com, Colchester, VT; by Charlotte Ferguson; 7/1/24*

UVM Home Health & Hospice raised over \$128,000 in its annual 5K fundraiser last month. This was the most the fundraiser has ever brought in for the McClure Miller Respite House. Every dollar raised goes directly to the McClure Miller Respite House, ensuring that each patient receives high-quality, compassionate end-of-life care despite their financial circumstances.

### **[Diagnosis for 6.26.24: Checking the pulse of Florida health care news and policy \[Certificate of Need\]](#)**


*Florida Politics, scroll down to "Death and Dying"; 6/26/24*

Florida health care regulators this week announced they tentatively denied 21 Certificate of Need (CON) applications for new hospice programs and approved 9 others. Heavily populated Br oward and Hillsborough counties drew the most interest, with seven providers wanting to establish new hospice programs in each area. [For details, click on the title's link and scroll down to "Death and Dying."]

### **[CHAPcast: Top 10 Deficiencies for Home Health and Hospice](#)**

*[Podcasts] Email; 7/3/24*

CHAP's Clinical Nurse Educator, Keri Culhane, dissects the top 10 deficiencies for 2023 in home health and hospice care. Keri highlights trends, issues, and practical strategies to improve care planning and compliance.



*Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today*

## Palliative Care Provider News

### **Anxiety and resilience in palliative medicine physicians**

*BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care; by Cristhian Alexis Velásquez Marín, Carlos Javier Avendaño-Vásquez; 7/2/24, online ahead of print*

To identify the relationship between the degree of anxiety and the capacity for resilience in palliative care physicians ..., [we] included 42 Colombian Palliative Care Physicians and administered a sociodemographic questionnaire, the Zung Anxiety Scale and the Resilience Scale. Results: 42 palliative care physicians with an average age of 41 participated in the study. Anxious symptoms were present in 100% of the physicians evaluated. Mild or moderate anxiety was identified in 93.7% of the population and 6.3% of people with severe anxiety symptoms. ... Our results reflect that the population of palliative care physicians has a higher risk and exposure to developing anxiety and its adverse outcomes. We found higher anxiety levels compared with other studies so this population requires greater vigilance and intervention in treating and preventing mental health difficulties.

*Editor's Note: Executive leaders for palliative care services, use this research to be aware of possible stress-related tolls experienced by your palliative physicians and team members. Ask. Generate dialogue. Do not assume that this applies, but rather use it to tune into and improve the support your palliative physicians need. While this research was in Columbia, it resonates a U.S. recurring trend of the unionization of physicians, often related to burnout and stress overload. Given its Columbian context and the negative translation of "hospice" into Spanish (meaning "asylum"), the authors' use of "palliative" might infer both "palliative" and "hospice" physicians. This likely correlation is unclear.*

## Clinical News

## **Why Nurses Quit**

*Medscape; by Jodi Helmer; 6/27/24*

Over 262,000 registered nurses (RNs) graduate yearly; 33 percent quit within the first 2 years. "Retention is a huge issue in nursing," says Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, president of the American Nurses Association (ANA). "COVID highlighted the issue, but these problems existed well before [the pandemic], and what we're seeing is a failure to truly do something about it." ... Diagnosing the Problem: burnout, work environment, inadequate staffing. Finding a Cure: legislation, residencies and mentorship, improved work conditions, resources for self-care.

*Editor's Note: Pair this with "[The hidden advantages of having an older workforce in home health care](#)," that we posted in yesterday's edition, 7/4/24.*

## **Aligning pill burden and palliative care needs in late-stage CVD: AHA**

*TCTMD - Cardiovascular Research Foundation; by L.A. McKeown; 7/2/24*

The first scientific statement from the American Heart Association (AHA) that focuses specifically on pharmacotherapy considerations in the palliative management of patients with CVD [cardiovascular disease] urges a patient-centered, compassionate approach to de-escalating and deprescribing. ... In addition to shedding light on how and when to start deprescribing and de-escalating common cardiovascular drugs, the statement discusses palliative drugs for pain, shortness of breath, and appetite in the context of CVD, which [Katherine E.] Di Palo [PharmD (Montefiore Medical Center, NY)] said the committee identified as a gap in knowledge given that much of the evidence for these drugs comes from patients with serious illnesses like cancer. ... Important Takeaways: Di Palo and colleagues note that palliative care complements cardiovascular care in several important ways, including reducing physical symptom burden, managing emotional and spiritual distress, providing sufficient support for caregivers, and helping patients choose treatment in line with their goals for care.

*Editor's Note: [Click here for the American Heart Association's statement](#), which we posted on 7/2/24.*

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*

## Regulatory News

### **DOJ slaps \$20M opioid prescription penalty on OptumRx**

*Fierce Healthcare; by Noah Tong; 7/2/24*

OptumRx will pay \$20 million to resolve claims the company violated the Controlled Substances Act by improperly filling certain opioid prescriptions, the Department of Justice recently announced. The agency claims OptumRx did not fill prescriptions correctly for "trinity prescriptions" like benzodiazepines and other muscle relaxants from April 2013 to April 2015. These prescriptions, which are addictive, may not have been "intended for legitimate medical use" and carry "significant risk of harm," according to a news release. "Pharmacies providing opioids and other controlled substances have a duty under the Controlled Substances Act to ensure that they fill prescriptions only for legitimate medical purposes," said Principal Deputy Attorney General Brian Boynton, head of the Justice Department's Civil Division, in a statement. "The department will continue to work with its law enforcement partners to ensure that pharmacies do not contribute to the opioid addiction crisis."

## Post-Acute Care News

### **Senior care experts detail how to build a coveted 'destination workplace'**

*McKnights Home Care; by Josh Henreckson; 6/27/24*

Faced with today's complex array of financial, staffing and regulatory challenges, senior care operators need to rely on a broad range of workplace solutions, a panel of experts said. ... Providers should be actively listening to their employees'

needs and trying to meet the evolving desires of the labor market, they emphasized at *McKnight's* "Meeting of the Minds" thought-leader discussion. This must take place whether they're pursuing recruiting strategies, trying to improve staff retention, integrating new technological advances or investing in new benefits and professional development. "The one area that's going to undergird everything for your success is paying attention to the most important capital, which is human capital," said Navin Gupta, CEO at software provider Viventium. "Pay attention to the caregiver experience from recruitment ... to retention to recognition and development — the entire journey."

## **Grief care efforts should include settings outside of hospice, provider group say**

*McKnights Senior Living; by Kimberly Bonvissuto; 7/3/24*

If standards are developed for high-quality bereavement and grief care, they must apply to settings outside of traditional hospice care, such as affordable senior housing, where there is a "critical lack" of mental health services. That's according to LeadingAge, which submitted [comments](#) last week to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on a draft report from a research project that will inform an independent panel that will develop standards for high-quality bereavement and grief care. Katy Barnett, LeadingAge director of home care and hospice operations and policy, highlighted the need for cross-continuum grief and bereavement assessments, interventions and resources, including in settings outside of traditional hospice care, such as affordable senior housing.



**Accelerate Impact**  
**Accelerate Influence**  
**Accelerate Innovation**

*Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today*

## **States with the most rural hospital closures in the past 20 years**

*Becker's CFO Report; by Mariah Taylor; 6/28/24*

Since January 2005, 192 rural hospitals have closed or converted, according to data [compiled](#) by the University of North Carolina's Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research. Of those hospitals, 105 have completely closed, and 87 have converted, meaning the facilities no longer provide inpatient services,

but continue to provide some services, such as primary care, skilled nursing care or long-term care. Since 2020, 36 hospitals have closed or converted.

- [For the list of states since 2005, [click here.](#)]
- [For the list since 2020, [click here.](#)]

## Technology / Innovations News

### **6 guidelines from ASCO on AI, cancer care**

*Becker's Hospital Review; by Ashleigh Hollowell; 6/25/24*

Leaders at the American Society of Clinical Oncology [published a formal document](#) June 25 that outlines what the group deems as the most appropriate use of artificial intelligence when it comes to clinical oncology care. ... When considering AI technology for oncological care, the American Society of Clinical Oncology says clinicians should keep the following principles in mind to guide their use:

1. Transparency ...
2. Inform Stakeholders ...
3. Equity and Fairness ...
4. Accountability ...
5. Oversight and Privacy ...
6. Human-Centered Application ...

## International News

### **Hospice Palliative Care Society launches Rec Room Programs**

*Prince George Citizen, British Columbia, Canada; by Citizen staff; 7/2/24*

The Prince George Hospice Palliative Care Society (PGHPCS) is offering new Rec Room Programs, furthering the organization's commitment to expanding hospice services for the community. This new addition aligns with the strategic goal of creating a space for individuals with life-limiting illnesses, their caregivers, and those grieving. The Rec Room is dedicated to promoting healing and wellness through meaningful connections and tangible support. Programs offered include:

- Woodworking Through It ...



- Art Hive ...
- The Mourning Journal ...
- Self-Defense ...
- Soundsation ...
- Drop-In Games Day ...

“We are thrilled to share the new Rec Room Programs, demonstrating our commitment to providing comprehensive and innovative support to our community,” said Donna Flood, executive director of PGHPCS.



## Other News

### Other Business Headlines of Interest, updated 7/3/24 per [nasdaq.com](https://www.nasdaq.com)

- Adus HomeCare (ADUS: \$117.45)
- Amedisys (AMED: \$97.00)
- BrightSpring Health (BTSG: \$11.20)
- Encompass (EHC: \$85.68)
- Enhabit (EHAB: \$8.76)
- Ensign Group (ENSG: \$126.53)



- HCA Healthcare (HCA: \$343.29)
- Humana (HUM: \$323.93)
- Pennant Group (PNTG: \$24.44)
- Vitas / Chemed Corp (CHE: \$539.58)

### **Executive Personnel Changes - 7/5/24**

- The American Red Cross has named Cliff Holtz as its new President and Chief Executive Officer, effective July 1
- Hospice of Davidson County, North Carolina, has promoted Aaron Holt to Chief Administrative Officer
- Hutchinson (KS) Regional Healthcare System has named Cameron Meyer CFO
- RWJBarnabas Health in West Orange, New Jersey has named
  - Patrick Delaney as Senior Vice President and COO of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick (NJ)
  - Deirdre Blaus as Interim Chief Administrative Officer for RWJUH Somerset
  - Judy Lane, RN as Senior Vice President of Operations for RWJBarnabas Health South Region
- VNA Health Group for Hospice, Palliative Medicine and the Parker Advanced Care Institute in New Jersey announces leadership transitions
  - Dr. Marian Holler transitions to an Advisory Role as she prepares for retirement
  - Dr. Audrey Radin is promoted to Chief Medical Officer
- WVU Health System [West Virginia University Health System] appointed Maggie Thieman, MD to Vice President of Post-Acute Services, providing oversight of home health, hospice, and durable medical equipment.

## **Today's Encouragement**

**I love being on vacation and never knowing what day of the week it is. ~ 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.