

Cordt Kassner

From: Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter
<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2024 4:00 AM
To: Cordt Kassner
Subject: Your Hospice & Palliative Care Today Newsletter for 07/21/24

OUR SPONSORS

[Teleios Consulting Group](#)

[CHAP](#)

[NPHI](#)

[LMHPCO](#)

[Composing Life Out of Loss](#)

[Hospice Analytics](#)



**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

July 21st, 2024

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

Contents

Headlines

- [1. NAHC-NHPCO Alliance comments on Hospice CARE Act](#)
- [2. When you know you might forget everything: Living with the Alzheimer's gene](#)
- [3. \[CHAP\] Understanding the Certificate of Need \(CON\)](#)
- [4. C-TAC: CMS' 'Palliative' Definition in 2025 Proposed Hospice Rule 'Misaligned, Problematic'](#)
- [5. County Commissioners question providing nonprofits with funding](#)
- [6. Emory receives \\$5 million grant to improve geriatric care and education](#)
- [7. Palliative care training initiative launches to improve quality among incarcerated](#)

populations

8. [\[Global Partners in Care\] 25 Years of Compassion and Impact](#)

9. [A 'Culture of Caring': Calvary Hospital's 125 year legacy in hospice and palliative care](#)

10. [Chevron deference derailed](#)

11. [Hospice CARES Act would update medical reviews, seek to reduce audits](#)

Today's Encouragement

12. [Today's Encouragement](#)

Headlines

[NAHC-NHPCO Alliance comments on Hospice CARE Act](#)

HomeCare; 7/16/24

The NAHC-NHPCO Alliance submitted a [comment letter](#) to the office of Rep. Earl Blumenauer (OR-3) on the discussion draft of the [Hospice Care Accountability, Reform, and Enforcement Act \(Hospice CARE Act\)](#), along with an overview and section-by-section summary. The Hospice CARE Act focuses on hospice payment reform and program integrity. The two trade organizations said they have worked closely with Blumenauer for years on these issues and are committed to continuing the dialogue to secure optimal outcomes for hospice providers and the continued delivery of quality care for patients and their families.

[When you know you might forget everything: Living with the Alzheimer's gene](#)

Intelligencer; by Amelia Schonbek; 7/16/24

In 2017, 23andMe began offering tests for the genetic risk of developing certain health conditions like celiac disease, Parkinson's, and late-onset [Alzheimer's](#). The Alzheimer's test will tell you if you have the gene variant APOE4, which means you have an increased likelihood of developing the disease. One in four people carry a single copy of the gene, but 2 to 3 percent of the population have two copies — one from each parent — and have a much higher probability. As with all of 23andMe's upcharged "Health Predisposition Reports," the sell on it was self-empowerment: Once you know, you can plan, allowing you to take charge of your well-being.

[\[CHAP\] Understanding the Certificate of Need \(CON\)](#)

CHAP - From the CHAP Boardroom; by Michael Rovinsky, CHAP BoD & VP of Strategic

Planning; email 7/12/24

Navigating regulatory frameworks is crucial for community-based healthcare organizations looking to initiate or expand their services. The Certificate of Need (CON) stands as a pivotal regulatory tool in this endeavor, playing a significant role in the planning and delivery of healthcare services. In today's discussion from the CHAP Boardroom, we delve into the Certificate of Need, exploring its implications and its influence on the landscape of community-based care.

- What is a Certificate of Need?
- The Rationale Behind CON Laws
- Criticism of CON Laws
- CON Laws by State
- Typical CON Submission and Review Process
- Review Criteria for a CON Application
- View Certificate of Need State Laws

Editor's Note: CHAP, the Community Health Accreditation Partner is a sponsor for Hospice & Palliative Care Today.



Accelerate Results
Accelerate Growth
Accelerate Learning

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

C-TAC: CMS' 'Palliative' Definition in 2025 Proposed Hospice Rule 'Misaligned, Problematic'

Hospice News; by Holly Vossel; 7/12/24

Efforts to establish potential payment mechanisms for high-acuity palliative services within the Medicare Hospice Benefit will require greater clarity from regulators, according to the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC). The U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) [2025 proposed hospice payment rule](#) contained a request for information (RFI) on the potential implementation of reimbursement pathways for "high intensity palliative care services," such as chemotherapy, blood transfusion and dialysis. CMS in its proposed [rule](#) indicated that, "Hospice care changes the focus of a patient's

illness to comfort care (palliative care) for pain relief and symptom management from a curative type of care.” C-TAC’s recommendations are as follows: *[Click on the title's link to read more.]*

County Commissioners question providing nonprofits with funding

Times Union Online, Kosciusko County, IN; by David L. Slone; 7/16/24

The future of Kosciusko County government providing funding to local nonprofit organizations is uncertain. Tuesday, after some discussion on the appropriateness of the county giving taxpayer dollars to nonprofits, the Kosciusko County Commissioners approved recommending to the County Council that seven nonprofits receive the same amount of funds in 2025 as they did in 2024. [Among the organizations listed is] Stillwater Hospice, \$50,000. ... [Commissioner Cary] Groninger said the county council would have the final say on the nonprofit funding. ... [Commissioner Brad] Jackson said the decision was a tough one and they didn’t just want to stop providing funding without giving the nonprofits notice.

Emory receives \$5 million grant to improve geriatric care and education

Saporta Report; by Emory University, Atlanta, GA; 7/16/24

Emory University has been awarded a \$5 million cooperative agreement by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to enhance geriatric care and education for health care workers in Georgia’s urban and rural areas. This five-year funding will support Georgia Gear (Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program), operated through the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine. ... The Georgia Gear program will partner with organizations including Georgia Memory Net, the Georgia Department of Public Health, Georgia Area Health Education Center, the Technical College System of Georgia, Emory Healthcare, the Atlanta VA Health Care System, and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM).

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

Palliative care training initiative launches to improve quality among incarcerated populations

Hospice News; by Holly Vossel; 7/12/24

The California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation's Medical Facility (CMF) has launched a new palliative spiritual care training program aimed at improving services for incarcerated individuals. The new two-week spiritual training program was recently provided to palliative care service workers and volunteers to assist CMF's clinical and nursing staff caring for patients at the facility's hospice, correctional treatment center and memory care units. A dozen trainees recently completed the program, with CMF planning to provide an annual refresher course to all of its palliative care service workers, according to California Correctional Health Care Services CEO Joseph Garland.

Editor's Note: One of the top read articles we've posted in 2024 has been "[Death and redemption in an American prison](#)," telling the story of Angola Prison's first hospice inmate care, from the experiences of Steven Garner; posted in our newsletter on 2/20/2024 and in our Sunday's Top Read Stories 3/3/2024.

[Global Partners in Care] 25 Years of Compassion and Impact

eHospice; 7/9/24

In 2024, Global Partners in Care (GPIC) celebrates its 25th anniversary. Over the past 25 years, GPIC has been dedicated to enhancing access to compassionate care for individuals and families across the globe who face serious illness, death and grief. This silver anniversary is a significant milestone in the history of the organization. Not only does it provide an occasion to reflect on the impact the

organization has made, but it also provides an opportunity to consider numerous future possibilities.

- Origins and Evolution: Global Partners in Care began as the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa (FHSSA). During a professional tour to hospices in South Africa and Zimbabwe, U.S. hospice leaders witnessed the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic across the region. ... In 2004, it became an affiliate of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), allowing direct connection with NHPCO's membership and expanding the scope of their work. ...
- Expanding Horizons ...
- Our Impact ...
- Embracing Our Principles into the Future ...

To join our mission or learn more about Global Partners in Care, contact us at info@globalpartnersincare.org.

Editor's Note: We celebrate Global Partners in Care and thank you for your compassionate, strategic mission, vision and perseverance through its beginnings, developments, and ahead. We remember those leaders who saw needs and created solutions. We honor the many USA hospice organizations who have partnered with FHSSA/GPIC.

A 'Culture of Caring': Calvary Hospital's 125 year legacy in hospice and palliative care

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 7/11/24

Calvary Hospital in New York City is a progenitor of the hospice and palliative care models, but it has its eyes on the future nevertheless. The only hospital in the nation that is specifically devoted to hospice and palliative care, Calvary is celebrating the 125th anniversary of its founding this year. The faith-based organization was established in 1899 by a group of Catholic widows who called themselves the Women of Calvary. Its initial mission was to care for dying women who had been abandoned by the health care system, often with nowhere to live and no one to care for them.



Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

Chevron deference derailed

The Rowan Report; by Kristin Rowan; 7/12/24

... Chevron Deference in Home Health: Since the advent of the PDGM model, CMS has calculated payment rates based on its interpretation of budget neutrality. The National Association for Home Care and Hospice [NAHC] has disputed the validity of both the interpretation of budget neutrality and the formulas used to calculate it. Last year's 2024 CMS Proposed Rule cut payment rates even further with a 2.890% Budget Neutrality permanent payment rate adjustment and a temporary rate adjustment to account for alleged overpayments from 2020-2022. The lawsuit filed against CMS in response to the 2024 Final Rule was dismissed. NAHC began pursuing an administrative review with CMS. [Click on the title's link to continue reading the discourse between CMS and NAHC, specific to home health.]

Hospice CARES Act would update medical reviews, seek to reduce audits

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 7/12/24

The forthcoming Hospice Care Accountability, Reform and Enforcement (Hospice CARE) Act from U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenaur (D-Oregon), if enacted, would implement a number of changes to medical review processes. ... Though the bill language is still in development, it will likely contain proposed updates to payment mechanisms for high-acuity palliative services, changes to the per-diem payment process and actions to improve quality and combat fraud. The bill would also implement a temporary, national moratorium on the enrollment of new hospices into Medicare, to help stem the tide of fraudulent activities among recently established providers concentrated primarily in California, Arizona, Texas and Nevada. ... Among the anticipated provisions of the bill would be an item requiring the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to use

documentation in a patient's medical record as supporting material. The documentation would include the reasons that an attending physician certified a patient for hospice and establish a six-month terminal prognosis.

Today's Encouragement

Look at the sparrows; they do not know what they will do in the next moment. Let us literally live from moment to moment. ~Mahatma Gandhi



**Collaboration in Peace,
Comfort & Dignity:
BE that change**

 **LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI 2024 CONFERENCE**
JULY 24-26, 2024

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today



Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today



HOSPICE ANALYTICS

TURNING DATA INTO INFORMATION – TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

Sponsor of Hospice & Palliative Care Today

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.