

## Cordt Kassner

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**HOSPICE &  
PALLIATIVE CARE  
TODAY**

## July 23rd, 2024

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## Hospice Provider News

### **'I never thought I'd live to see it': Veterans honored at WTRC's Hospice of the Big Country thank you dinner**

*KTAB/KRBC Abilene, TX; by Noah McKinney; 7/19/24*

Fellowship and reverence filled the West Texas Rehab's Hospice of the Big Country boardroom Thursday evening. The organization opened its doors once more to local Veterans for its annual 'We Honor Veterans' thank-you dinner. ... Veterans of every branch spanning the decades showed up to sit with each other and break bread. The evening started with the Dyess Honor Guard presenting the flag and the singing of the national anthem. Following that, a POW/MIA or "Missing Man table" was set as a tribute to those who never returned. The attendees were then served dinner, and lively conversations filled the room.

*Notable Mention: Angie Lane, Director of Hospice Services, Hospice of the Big Country*

### **The Hospice of Davidson County hold annual 'Ride for Angels' event**

*NBC WXII-12, Davidson County, NC; by Kara Peters; 7/21/24*

The Hospice of Davidson County held its 17th annual 'Ride for Angels' event today. The purpose of the event is to raise money to help the community have access to quality end-of life care. The 75 mile ride led by the Davidson County Sherriff's Office started and ended at Denton Farm park. "I had a son that was in a near drowning accident and at the end of his life, the hospice team had to come out and minister to him." attendee Lahoma Workman said. "Just helped us through the hardest time that a family could go through. They were there for us and it was just an awesome experience." ... This year alone, the Hospice of Davidson County has given over \$350,000 worth of charity care to families that couldn't afford to access their services.

## Palliative Care Provider News

### **Keys to negotiating ACO palliative care contracts**

*Hospice News; by Molly Bookner; 7/22/24*

Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) are key for scaling palliative care through value-based models. Hospices and palliative care providers can collaborate with ACOs by becoming members of those organizations themselves, or by contracting with them through a preferred provider network. These arrangements allow for the negotiation of mutually beneficial terms that are tailored to the needs and characteristics of patient populations. However, successfully negotiating such contracts requires a strategic approach and a deep understanding of ACOs' priorities. As the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) moves to align all Medicare beneficiaries with an accountable care relationship, these negotiations will become even more paramount.



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## Clinical News

### **Palliative pharmacotherapy for cardiovascular disease: A scientific statement from the American Heart Association**

*Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes - American Heart Association (AHA)*

*/ American Stroke Association (ASA); by Katherine E. Di Palo, PharmD, MBA, MS, FAHA, Shelli Feder, PhD, APRN, ACHPN, FPCN, FAHA, Yleana T. Baggenstos, PharmD, Cyrille K. Cornelio< a target="\_blank" href="https://www.hospicepalliativecaretoday.com/redirect?u=1737&s=email&b=4825&n=20240723&r=https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/HCQ.000000000000131#con4">, PharmD, Daniel E. Forman, MD, Parag Goyal, ;MD, MSc, Min Ji Kwak, MD, MS, DrPH, and Colleen K. McIlvennan, PhD, DNP, FAHA on behalf of the American Heart Association Clinical Pharmacology Committee of the Council on Clinical Cardiology and Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing; 7/24*

... Compared with other serious illnesses, medication management that incorporates a palliative approach is underused among individuals with cardiovascular disease. This scientific statement describes palliative pharmacotherapy inclusive of cardiovascular drugs and essential palliative medicines that work synergistically to control symptoms and enhance quality of life. We also summarize and clarify available evidence on the utility of guideline-directed and evidence-based medical therapies in individuals with end-stage heart failure, pulmonary arterial hypertension, coronary heart disease, and other cardiomyopathies while providing clinical considerations for de-escalating or deprescribing. Shared decision-making and goal-oriented care are emphasized and considered quintessential ... across the spectrum of cardiovascular disease.

### **Exhausted by prior auth, many patients abandon care: AMA survey**

*AMA News Wire - American Medical Association; by Tanya Albert Henry; 7/18/24*

Among America's physicians, more than nine in 10 surveyed say that prior authorization has a negative impact on patient clinical outcomes. Most telling is that 78% of physicians reported that prior authorization often or sometimes results in their patients abandoning a recommended course of treatment, according to the results of the AMA's annual nationwide prior authorization survey (PDF) of 1,000 practicing physicians. In addition to patients forgoing care, physicians also see the burdensome insurance company practice known as prior authorization leading to care delays and serious adverse events. *[Click on the title's link for more specific stats.]*

### **I thought my love for climbing died with my husband. I was wrong.**

*Climbing; by Olivia Jordan Cornelius; 7/18/24*

What do you do with someone's climbing shoes when they die? I hadn't thought

about it. After all, my husband, Cam, was 34 and still should have had many years of climbing ahead of him. ... On the shoe rack, they sat as a reminder of the future I had imagined we'd have. Too intimate to give away and too painful to keep, I wrapped them in newspaper and put them in the garbage outside. Then I came back to our apartment and hid my pair in the hallway cupboard. ... Our once-adventurous life together ended in a stuffy hospice room. ... *[Click on the title's link for this powerful story of navigating young widowhood.]*

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## Regulatory News

### **'Bad apples in a barrel': How fraudsters in home health care impact the entire space**

*Home Health Care News; by Joyce Famakinwa; 7/19/24*

The home health industry has its very own boogeyman--the bad actor. However, there's a difference between providers that had made errors in claims ... *[Additional subscription may be required]*

### **Texas pharmaceutical marketer sentenced for \$59 million medications fraud conspiracy**

*ArentFox Schiff; by D. Jacques Smith, Randall A. Brater, Michael F. Dearington, Nadia Patel, Hillary M. Stemple, Mattie Bowden, Elizabeth Satarov; 7/19/24*

On July 12, Quintan Cockerell, a Texas pharmaceutical marketer, was sentenced to over two years in prison and ordered to pay more than \$59 million for receiving illegal kickbacks in exchange for prescription referrals for compounded medications intended to be made specific for individual patient needs. ... Court

documents and evidence presented at trial demonstrated that Cockerell used preloaded prescription pads and “standing orders” for doctors to easily select expensive compounded medications. The pharmacy could then switch ingredients in the medications actually prescribed by doctors to maximum insurance reimbursements.

### **How well does Medicare cover end-of-life care? It depends on what type**

*Medical Xpress; by Mark Harden, CU Anschutz Medical Campus; 7/19/24*

Not all versions of Medicare are created equal—and when it comes to end-of-life care, some versions may serve a patient's needs better than others. That's the focus of newly published research by Lauren Hersch Nicholas, Ph.D., MPP, a University of Colorado Department of Medicine and CU Cancer Center health economist, and her colleagues. The researchers analyzed the experiences of more than a million people receiving Medicare-funded services in the last six months of their lives. ... Their paper was [published](#) July 19 in *JAMA Health Forum*. What Nicholas and her colleagues found is that the kind of Medicare a patient is enrolled in can make a difference in whether that patient gets certain treatments, and whether the patient dies in a hospital or in hospice care.



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## **Research News**

### **What does "palliative care" represent in research using secondary data?**

*Journal of Pain and Symptom Management; by J. Brian Cassel; 7/18/24*

While much research has been done regarding "palliative care" using retrospective cohort studies of large datasets, the data sources may not be capturing specialty palliative care services. This article aims to clarify what source

data are used in such studies, how specialty palliative care services are determined to have been provided or not, and mismatches between the nature of the data and the interpretation of researchers.

## Post-Acute Care News

### **The top 10 geriatric hospitals, per US News**

*Becker's Hospital Review; by Elizabeth Gregerson; 7/16/24*

... U.S. News evaluated 1,489 hospitals for their care of patients ages 75 and older, publishing the results July 16. Here are the top 10 geriatric hospitals, as ranked by the publication:

1. Mount Sinai Hospital (New York City)
2. NYU Langone Hospitals (New York City)
3. UCSF Health-UCSF Medical Center (San Francisco)
4. Mayo Clinic (Rochester, Minn.)
5. UCLA Medical Center (Los Angeles)
6. Cleveland Clinic
7. Johns Hopkins Hospital (Baltimore)
8. New York-Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia and Cornell (New York City)
9. Hospitals of the University of Pennsylvania-Penn Presbyterian (Philadelphia)
10. Rush University Medical Center (Chicago)

### **New York Department of Health previews proposed PACE regulations**

*Lexology; by Greenberg Traurig, LLP; 7/16/24*

In December 2022, New York Gov. Hochul signed legislation establishing a new streamlined licensure process for the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) under Article 29-EE of the New York Public Health Law. The Department of Health (DOH) previewed the Commissioner of Health's proposed implementing regulations at a June 2024 meeting of the Public Health and Health Planning Council (PHHPC). The proposed regulations will be subject to the procedures of the State Administrative Procedure Act, which requires that they be published in the State Register and that the public be given a comment period. *[Click on the title's link for details.]*





## General News

### **5 takeaways from CEO and CFO compensation report**

*Becker's Hospital Review; by Kristin Kuchno; 7/17/24*

Compensation Advisory Partners' July 12 [report](#) highlighted compensation trends for CFOs and CEOs in 2023, based on data from 132 companies, including those in the healthcare sector, with a median revenue of \$14.6 billion. Here are the key takeaways:

1. Nearly three in four CFOs and half of CEOs received base salary increases.  
...
2. The median change in base salary held steady for CFOs, while increases were flat for CEOs. ...
3. Long-term incentive awards increased at a higher rate than last year. ...
4. Total cash compensation in healthcare aligned with industries. ...
5. Amid compensation trends, CFO turnover remains higher than CEO turnover. ...

## Non-print News



## Screening for Dementia: A Podcast with Anna Chodos, Joseph Gaugler and Soo Borson

*GeriPal Podcast; Eric Widera, Alex Smith, Anna Chodos, Joseph Gaugler, Soo Borson; 7/19/24*

The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) concluded back in 2000 that there is insufficient evidence to recommend for or against routine screening for dementia in older adults. Are there, though, populations that it may be helpful in, or should that change with the advent of the new amyloid antibodies? Should it? If so, how do we screen and who do we screen? On this week's podcast we talk with three experts in the field about screening for dementia.&nbs p;

## Today's Encouragement

**We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort. ~ Jesse Owens, 1936 Olympic American track and field athlete and nine-time gold medalist**

*Editor's Note: As Olympians gather from all over the world for the 2024 Summer Games in Paris, we celebrate each athlete's years of daily "determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort"!*





# HOSPICE ANALYTICS

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