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Hospice Provider News

Transforming hospice care: The evolving role of medical directors

CHAPcast podcast; by Jennifer Kennedy, Daniel Maison; 8/21/24

How have federal regulatory changes reshaped the role of hospice medical directors from mere formalities to key players in patient care and organizational leadership? Join Jennifer Kennedy and our esteemed guest, Dr. Daniel Maison, as we unpack the historical "three S's" and explore the significant transformations driven by CMS regulations. You'll gain valuable insights into the evolving responsibilities of hospice medical directors, highlighting their integral contributions to both operational and clinical aspects within hospice organizations.

Hospice Insights Podcast - Stories of successful hospice leadership: The CEO and Chief Medical Officer relationship

JD Supra; by Husch Blackwell; 8/21/24

A strong and engaged Chief Medical Officer (CMO) may be a hospice CEO's most important asset. But what does a successful CEO/CMO relationship look like and how must it evolve to meet today's challenges? In this episode we get to find out,

as Husch Blackwell's Meg Pekarske is joined by HopeHealth CEO Diana Franchitto and Dr. Edward Martin, CMO, whose trusted relationship has been instrumental to the organization's success and clinical expansion.

Hospice of the Ozarks introduces Care Coaching, a free non-medical support program

KTLO.com; by KTLO staff; 8/22/24

Hospice of the Ozarks is offering a free Care Coaching service to provide an extra layer of support to patients with serious illness. The program aims to assist and encourage participants until recovery or end of life. Primarily designed as a call service, coaches will also visit with clients in person during the initial assessment period. Carol Jackson, care coach at Hospice of the Ozarks, says the service uses a three pronged approach. Jackson says the care provided is individualized for each client in order to serve them best. The Care Coaching service can also help patients with a wide variety of needs, such as medicine, insurance, transportation, food, in-home care, paperwork and follow-ups on doctor's visits. Jackson gives examples of what she can do for her clients.



Accelerate Results
Accelerate Growth
Accelerate Learning

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Granite VNA launches virtual nurse program

Eagle Times, Concord, NH; by Eagle Times Staff; 8/22/24

Granite VNA recently introduced a virtual nurse program, connecting patients with skilled home and hospice care nurses through telephone and video calls. The virtual nurses complement the agency's field nursing team by conducting regular check-ins with their patients, reinforcing education, addressing patients' physical and mental health needs, supporting case management and more. Granite VNA currently has three virtual visiting nurses, two who specialize in home care and one who specializes in hospice care. Similar to the agency's field nurses, the virtual visiting nurses see multiple patients each day. "Virtual visiting nurses play a crucial role in enhancing community health and providing

support to Granite VNA's home and hospice care field nurses," said Granite VNA Vice President of Education and Quality Tammi Mozier, MBA, PT, ATC, COS-C.

Bridgeway Hospice's new nonprofit ensures access to care

Hays Free Press, Buda, TX; by Megan Navarro; 8/21/24

To ensure that members of the community have ease of access to the care that they need, a new nonprofit has been established out of a local hospice service in Buda: Bridgeway To Care Foundation. "We've had the hospice for three years — Bridgeway Hospice — and then we have our home health, which is Be Healthy At Home; we established that in 2008. We just saw a certain number of clients that are going without care or kind of falling in between either Medicare age or not being able to utilize their hospice benefit, whether because they're [younger] than 65 or they're continuing to seek treatment, such as chemotherapy," said Brandis Wilmore, president of Bridgeway Hospice.

Carolina Caring's second hospice resale shop location in Mountain View opens 8/28

FOCUS Newspaper; 8/21/24

Carolina Caring is delighted to announce the grand opening of its second Hospice Resale Shop location on Wednesday, August 28, at 10 a.m. This new shop will be located at 2920 S. Highway 127 in Mountain View, just a few miles from the nonprofit serious illness provider's Catawba Valley Hospice House. ... Carolina Caring, founded in 1979, is an independent, community-based, nonprofit healthcare provider. ... Carolina Caring serves 12 counties across western North Carolina and the Charlotte Region.

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Palliative Care Provider News

From fear to empowerment: How palliative care can help

University of Utah Huntsman Cancer Institute; 8/21/24

In 2018, Ruth Hill got out of bed one morning and felt her spine literally break. The 53-year-old collapsed to the floor. "I knew something catastrophic had happened," Ruth says. She soon learned six of her vertebrae had cracked and two had exploded. The doctor at the hospital in Colorado Springs, where Ruth had been visiting her son and grandchildren, gave her even more devastating news. "You're filled with cancer. It's incurable," he told her. "We're going to take you upstairs and check your bra in. If it's in your brain, you won't have long to live." ... [Click on the title's link to continue reading this inspirational story.]

Clinical News

The importance of competencies in pain management and palliative care

Greenwich Sentinel, Greenwich, CT; by Russell R. Barksdale, Jr.; 8/21/24

... Competencies, ongoing pharmacological education, regular patient pain assessments, management, and medication adjustments are all crucial processes for healthcare providers in today's complex medical environment. Regrettably, metabolic and behavioral issues related to pain medications, especially opioids, if not properly managed, poses risk of addiction. Beginning in the late 1990s, the consumption of medical opioids used to treat pain increased in many countries worldwide. Since that time, alarmingly the United States has outpaced every other country in per capita opioid consumption. ... [Click on the title's link to continue reading.]

How to recognise the dying phase in palliative and end-of-life care

Nursing Times; by Julie Kinley and Cathriona Sullivan; 8/19/24

This article gives practical guidance for nurses on providing care in the last days of life. ... Birth and death are two certainties in life. Consequently, during their career, many nurses will support, and indeed lead, the management of the care of dying people. ... [Knowing] how to recognise – and manage – this phase of life remains a career-long key responsibility and role. ... In any setting, nurses are part of a wider team. The recognition of dying and the dying phase can be enhanced if everyone:

- Uses the same language;
- Delivers a consistent message, which involves:
 - Understanding the challenge;
 - Knowing the organisational approach and resources where they work;
 - Having an awareness of tools and measures that may be useful in practice;
- Is alert for signs and symptoms;
- Understands symptom control;
- Makes use of additional resources.



“What I wish I knew about dementia”: A caregiving only child’s experience

The Healthy; by Dr. Patricia Varacallo, DO; 8/20/24

It's no secret dementia affects the brain of the patient, and tests the hearts of their loved ones. Through one woman's personal journey, experts advise on the emotional, medical, and financial aspects of caregiving for dementia. ... Drawing from Ann’s caregiving journey and insights from Dr. Wint and Lucille Carriere, PhD, Cleveland Clinic Angie Ruvo Endowed Caregiving Chair, we share their collective wisdom on what they wish more people knew about dementia.

- The early signs of dementia ...
- The common misconceptions about dementia ...
 - "Dementia and Alzheimer's are interchangeable" ...
 - "Nothing can be done about it" ...
 - "Alzheimer's and other causes of dementia cannot be diagnosed until after death" ...
- Caregiving for someone with dementia ...
- Available support systems for dementia patients ...
- Navigating care transitions ...
- Financial resources for dementia care ... [includes PACE]

Editor's Note: This article provides excellent talking points you can adapt for your community engagement, education, and utilization (i.e., palliative care philosophy and when it is time for hospice). Additionally, each hospice employee and volunteer is a reference point in their spheres of family and community relationships. Ensure that all (not just clinical) know at least these basics, with when and how your organization can help. [Posted in honor of my Dad, who lived with Alzheimer's with great grace and courage until his death, supported at the end by palliative and hospice care.]

General News

5 books to make caregiving a little more manageable

DNYUZ; 8/19/24

Tina Sadarangani, a geriatric nurse practitioner in New York City, has spent years working with older adults and their families. She counsels patients on the medications they should take, the eating habits they should change and the specialists they should see. But it wasn't until her own father became seriously ill — requiring a slew of medications, deliveries, physical therapy and more — that she understood the experience from what she calls “the other side of the table.” ... Here are five titles, recommended by health care providers and other experts, to help those who help others.< /p>

1. The 36-Hour Day, by Nancy L. Mace and Dr. Peter V. Rabins ...
2. Helping Yourself Help Others, by Rosalyn Carter ...
3. Travelers to Unimaginable Lands, by Dasha Kiper ...
4. When the Time Comes, by Paula Span ...
5. Passages in Caregiving, by Gail Sheehy ...

Project Linus brings comfort to children in need through handmade blankets and quilts

Concho Valley, College Station, TX; by Zoria Goodley; 8/21/24

Project Linus, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing handmade blankets and quilts to children facing serious illness, trauma or other needs, continues its impactful mission across the United States. There are 17 chapters in the state of Texas alone. Patricia Perry, the Brazos Valley Chapter Coordinator, highlights the broad spectrum of needs the organization addresses.

West Penn Hospital union nurses vote to authorize strike

WPXI.com news, Pittsburgh, PA; by Taylor Spirito; 8/22/24

Union nurses at West Penn Hospital have voted to authorize a strike. On Wednesday, union nurses votes 99.3% in favor of authorizing their negotiating committee to send a strike notice if necessary, rejecting contract proposals from the Allegheny Health Network (AHN) as inadequate to address the region's nurse staffing crisis. The nurses are calling for resources to recruit new nurses and retain experienced ones. They said the hospital's nursing staff must obtain 100 more registered nurses to meet the region's growing patient care needs, a representative from SEIU Healthcare PA said.

Other News

Executive Personnel Changes - 8/16/24

- [HomeCare & Hospice, Total Senior Care in western New York names Chad Kirk as Chief Financial Officer](#)
- [HopeWest in western Colorado announces Dr. April Krutka is returning as the Medical Director of Hospice and Palliative Care](#)

Today's Encouragement

Today, do something that your future self will thank you for. ~ Anonymous





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