

Cordt Kassner

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<subscriptions@hospicepalliativecaretoday.com>
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**HOSPICE &
PALLIATIVE CARE
TODAY**

September 1st, 2024

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

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Headlines

Fraudulent hospices reportedly target homeless people, methadone patients to pad census

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 8/23/24

Fraudulent hospices in California reportedly have been targeting homeless people and methadone patients, promising them a steady supply of opioids in exchange for enrolling in hospice. Three hospice leaders came forward to Hospice News to report these practices. According to their reports, unscrupulous providers have canvassed both homeless encampments and methadone clinics seeking to sign up patients who are not terminally ill. In many cases, the sources said, these operators offer patients free access to board-and-care facilities and a daily supply of morphine. Another frequent practice among these hospices is to offer patients cash or other items in addition to drugs, they said. "This conduct raises serious fraud concerns on kickbacks or gifts to beneficiaries who do not appear to qualify for hospice," Bill Dombi, president of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC), told Hospice News. "More importantly, this conduct is predatory, taking advantage of individuals in addiction. Jail time is not enough punishment for the harm that such conduct creates."

Editor's Note: We are reposting this from our Saturday 8/24 issue, to ensure our weekday readers see it. This is abhorable. Click on the title's link to read more.

While [John Oliver's "Last Week Tonight"](#) episode on 8/18/24 gained criticism from many hospice leaders, these fraudulent unethical behaviors (and others') lay the

groundwork for such dire distrust from the public. These behaviors must be stopped. These persons and organizations must be held accountable.

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.

LobsterFest raises more than \$115,000 for a good cause

Steamboat Pilot & Today; by Eli Pace; 8/28/24

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Rotary Club of Steamboat Springs served up more than 300 fresh lobsters Saturday at the Steamboat Springs Airport as Rotarians held to tradition while supporting Northwest Colorado Health's Home Health and Hospice Services. Northwest Colorado Health is the only provider of Home Health and Hospice in the Yampa Valley, ... "In an average year, we care for more than 250 patients and provide support to their family members," said Steph Einfeld, CEO of Northwest Colorado Health. ... The Rotarians had 310 lobsters flown in Thursday evening from Maine for the event that sells out every year, and a silent and live auction augmented table sales and sponsorships. According to the Rotary Club, this year's LobsterFest raised more than \$100,000 to support Northwest Colorado Health's program and \$15,000 for other Rotary charities.

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New ASCO Guidelines stress importance of early palliative care

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 8/26/24

The 2024 update to the American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) clinical practice guidelines place renewed emphasis on palliative care. The guidelines are updated periodically by a multidisciplinary team, including a patient representative and experts in medical and radiation oncology, hematology and palliative care. For the 2024 revisions, this panel reviewed 52 randomized controlled trials that evaluated outcomes among cancer patients who received palliative care, ASCO reported. "This is a pivotal time," the panel's co-chair Betty Ferrell of City of Hope Cancer Care told the ASCO Post. "This guideline is a call to action for everyone to think about how they are integrating palliative care for all patients with cancer. There are great advances in cancer care, but none of these will be fully effective unless we fully integrate palliative care."

Couple marry in ICU an hour before bride's father takes his last breath

Our Community Now, North Providence, RI; by OCN staff; 8/22/24

A Rhode Island hospital held an emergency wedding that had to be performed before the bride's father died from muscular dystrophy. Sabrina Silveira-DaCosta says her father, 58-year-old Frank Silveira, was Portuguese-born and raised, a serious chef and a five-star dad. ... With Silveira's health rapidly declining, his family realized he wasn't going to make it his daughter's wedding on Sep. 7, so plans changed. "Everyone was able to bring the wedding to him in the hospital, and he got to walk me down the aisle," Silveira-DaCosta said. From his intensive care unit bed, Silveira escorted his daughter down the hospital hallway Monday

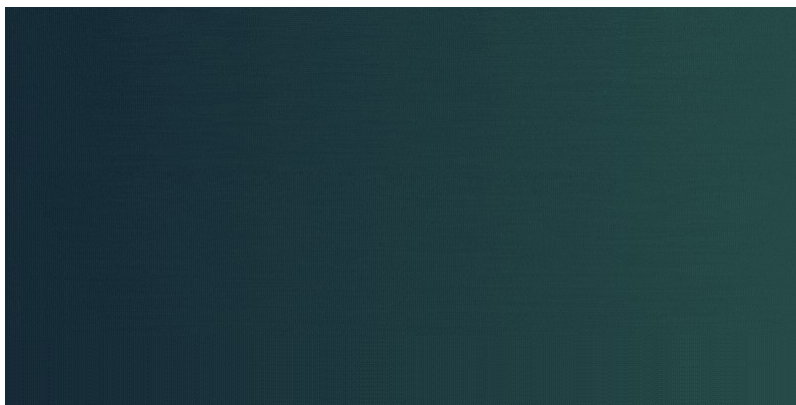
into the hands of her fiancé, Sam DaCosta. ... Silveira-DaCosta's father died about an hour after he walked her down the aisle. "It's very complex. It's a lot of emotion. Our community hospitals don't get enough credit because any big hospital couldn't have done this for us," she said.

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 ...



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Doctors saved her life. She didn't want them to.

DNYUZ; by Kate Raphael; 8/26/24

Marie Cooper led her life according to her Christian faith. ... [And, she] always said that at the end of her life, she did not want to be resuscitated. ... Last winter, doctors found cancer cells in her stomach. She'd had "do not resuscitate" and "do not intubate" orders on file for decades and had just filled out new copies,

instructing medical staff to withhold measures to restart her heart if it stopped, and to never give her a breathing tube. In February, Ms. Cooper walked into the hospital for a routine stomach scope to determine the severity of the cancer. After the procedure, [Ms. Cooper's daughter] visited her mother in the recovery room and saw her in a panic. ... [The daughter] called for help and was ushered to a waiting room while the medical team called an emergency code. Ms. Cooper grew even more distressed and "uncooperative," according to medical records. Doctors restrained her and inserted a breathing tube down her throat, violating the wishes outlined in her medical chart. Ms. Uphold, livid, confronted the doctors, who could not explain why Ms. Cooper had been intubated. ...

Editor's Note: Pair this with other posts in our newsletter today, namely "[Improving post-hospital care of older cancer patients.](#)"

Hospices facilities launch, renovate with growth in mind: Julia Hospice & Palliative refuels de novo plans

Hospice News; by Holly Vossel; 8/23/24

Pennsylvania-based Julia Hospice & Palliative (JHPC) has reignited plans to launch a de novo after experiencing pandemic-related setbacks. Dubbed Julia House, the facility will provide inpatient hospice and serve as an outpatient palliative care clinic. It will be the first hospice center in Erie County, Pennsylvania, the provider indicated. The new location will allow for improved support for serious and terminally ill patients that lack caregiver support or need higher levels of care, said Dr. Christopher Strzalka, medical director at Julia Hospice & Palliative Care. "For people who don't have a caregiver in their home, we can put them in our facility and they can live there until their natural death, and they'll have access to specially trained caregivers in end-of-life care," Strzalka told local 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](#)



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Sophisticated caregiver training remains an underutilized retention, ROI tool

Home Health Care News; by Audrie Martin; 8/22/24

... [Only] 43.8% of home-based care staff and 55% of home health and hospice staff feel prepared to care for new clients, according to the 2024 Activated Insights Benchmarking Report. As a possible result, the annual care staff turnover rate has climbed 14% in the last two years to almost 80%. Organizations demonstrating a commitment to continuing education improve employee satisfaction by allowing caregivers to hone their skills and grow in their careers. Investing in employees; long-term success will impart a sense of purpose and possibility within a role known for turnover and burnout. "The average home-based care provider offers five hours of orientation and eight hours of ongoing training," the report read. "Those who offer at least eight orientation hours and 12 hours of ongoing training see an increase of \$1,103,291 in revenue. However, while establishing a clear path is one of the top strategies to retaining long-term employees, only 39% of providers have one."

Editorial: Palliative care can drive change via new payment models

Hospice News; by Jim Parker; 8/27/24

A range of emerging payment model demonstrations are integrating principles traditionally associated with "palliative care" into their structures, but without using that term. The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation's (CMMI) has unveiled a series of models that incorporate elements designed to provide patient-centered care to improve seriously ill patients' quality of life. Examples include the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE), the Kidney Care Choices and Enhancing Oncology models. The GUIDE model, for example, includes language requiring "person-centered care meant to improve quality of life, delivered by interdisciplinary teams." Thus, one could argue that palliative care principles are becoming more integrated into the larger system, even if stakeholders are not using the same terminology. ...

What is Death?

GeriPal podcast; by Eric Widera, Alex Smith, Winston Chiong, Sean Aas; 8/22/24

We've talked about Brain Death before ... and in many ways today's podcast is a follow up to that episode. Why does this issue keep coming up? Why is it unresolved? Today we put these questions to Winston Chiong, a neurologist and bioethicist, and Sean Aas, a philosopher and bioethicist.



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Today's Encouragement

Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world. ~Albert Einstein



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