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# HOSPICE NEWS NETWORK

*Reports on recent media to inform hospice, palliative care, and policy leaders*

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A Service of State Hospice Organizations

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## **ALLIANCE CEO LANDERS SAYS HOSPICES FACE NUMEROUS POLICY, LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UNKNOWNNS**

**Alliance CEO, Dr. Steven Landers, says, “Hospice and home-based care providers need a deep understanding around the wide scope of changes happening at policy, legislative and regulatory levels.”** With a new president, and changes in leadership at HHS, CMS, and in Congress, hospices need clear understanding of new priorities and their impact on both care delivery and workforce sustainability.

Landers spoke with *Hospice News* about top policy issues facing the industry. Medicare Advantage (MA), and the role it will play in the future, “is a massive strategic issue for the whole care at home community.” It is unknown if there will be a surge in growth of MA, a slower pace of growth or a status quo. Home care providers, to be successful, will need to “evolve their care models and their technology.” Hospices need to unite to stand against bad ideas, models, and policies from taking hold.

In addition to watching and guiding the development and evolution of hospice, a serious concern is maintaining the workforce—especially “the nursing and personal care workforce.” Payment updates and inflation have put hospices in a poor position in relation to workforce recruitment and maintenance. Landers envisions hospices using creative policy and programing to gain staff by building “earn-while-you-learn pathways” that provide real opportunities for growth in staffs’ careers. Resources in terms of reimbursement are crucial to such a path forward.

Government oversight is an area of concern that impacts all home care providers. How can oversight truly rid the hospice provider community of sham and fraud? And, we also have the “well-run and well-managed providers in the country wasting their resources on things that ultimately get adjudicated in their favor, but after much hassle, expense and distraction from actually taking care of people.

Currently, the Alliance’s legislative and regulatory concerns are focused on several issues. The telehealth face-to-face certification flexibilities are important. The Alliance also wants to “see adequate inflationary updates” in hospice payments. The implementation of HOPE should be on a “reasonable timeline with adequate resources for education and preparation. And when CMS reconsiders the SPF, the Alliance wants to be at the table and prevent the same mistakes from happening again.

In terms of legislation, the Hospice CARE Act, introduced last year by Rep. Earl Blumenauer, “represents an important attempt to modernize and strengthen the hospice benefit. The Alliance has worked to support this act and, following Blumenauer’s retirement, the Alliance plans to continue to support such future legislation.

While grateful for flexibility around hospice respite care, other issues remain a concern. Proposed legislation remains of concern. “Radical changes to hospice payment structure or poorly targeted, overly burdensome program integrity measures could ultimately threaten patient access to care.” The Alliance, says Landers, will “advocate vigorously” for legislative reform that benefits patients and families, and will “push back” on proposals that do not improve access, quality, or that take the hospice movement backwards.”

At the advocacy and policy level, a primary focus of the Alliance is to be sure that the patient is the central focus of hospice. After 40 years of success, only about half of eligible beneficiaries access hospice care. The Alliance is concerned that reimbursement has not matched the pace of inflation. The Alliance also wants to support “meaningful innovation opportunities, like a concurrent care option that would enable comprehensive care for people with life-limiting illness who wish to continue active treatment.” The article is online at the link below. (*Hospice News*, 4/10, <https://hospicenews.com/2025/04/10/national-alliance-ceo-dr-steven-landers-hospices-face-regulatory-unknowns-as-workforce-erodes>)

## **CMS RELEASES FY 2026 HOSPICE WAGE INDEX PAYMENT RATE PROPOSAL**

**On 4/11, CMS announced the proposed rule 1835-P Fact Sheet for FY 2026 hospice wage index.** “This rule also proposes to clarify in the hospice payment regulations that the physician member of the interdisciplinary group (IDG) may recommend admission to hospice care, which would align with certification regulations and the Conditions of Participation (CoPs). CMS also proposes to clarify that the hospice face-to-face encounter attestation must include the physician’s/practitioner’s signature and date,” and a face-to-face meeting is required to recertify a patient for care. CMS also proposes a regulatory text change to the Hospice Quality Reporting Program. CMS is calling for public feedback and input, using the RFI at <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-regulatory-relief-rfi>. The CMS proposal is to increase the hospice payment rate by 2.4%, an estimated increase of \$695 million from FY 2025.

The unpublished proposal is online now at <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2025-06317.pdf>, and will be posted when published in the *Federal Register* at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2025-06317/medicare-program-fiscal-year-2026-hospice-wage-index-and-payment-rate-update-and-hospice-quality>.

“Newly-Proposed CMS Hospice Payment Update Could ‘Jeopardize Access to Care,’” in *Home Health Care News*, examines the potential impact of the proposal. Dr. Steven Landers, CEO of the Alliance, says the article, says “The proposed payment update for FY 2026 falls short of what is needed to sustain high-quality hospice care.”

The *Home Health Care* article linked below explores the HOPE tool, and says the Alliance says the HOPE updates “fail to address mounting concerns that providers lack clarity into the new quality data collection tool, slated to take effect October 2025.”

An article in *Hospice News* explores the financial impacts of the proposal, and examines regulatory and quality updates. (CMS, 4/11, [https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/fiscal-year-2026-hospice-wage-index-and-payment-rate-update-proposed-rule-cms-1835-p-fact-sheet#:~:text=For%20FY%202026%2C%20CMS%20proposes,productivity%20adjustment%2C%20required%20by%20law; Home Health Care News, 4/11, https://homehealthcarenews.com/2025/04/newly-proposed-cms-hospice-payment-update-could-jeopardize-access-to-care/; Hospice News, 4/11, https://hospicenews.com/2025/04/11/cms-proposes-2026-hospice-payment-rule-with-potential-unimaginable-consequences/](https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/fiscal-year-2026-hospice-wage-index-and-payment-rate-update-proposed-rule-cms-1835-p-fact-sheet#:~:text=For%20FY%202026%2C%20CMS%20proposes,productivity%20adjustment%2C%20required%20by%20law;Home+Health+Care+News,4/11,https://homehealthcarenews.com/2025/04/newly-proposed-cms-hospice-payment-update-could-jeopardize-access-to-care/;Hospice+News,4/11,https://hospicenews.com/2025/04/11/cms-proposes-2026-hospice-payment-rule-with-potential-unimaginable-consequences/))

## HOSPICE NOTES

~ **An article in *Hospice News* explores “The Senior Living Opportunity for Hospices.”** The article shares examples of providers who are entering the field and offers feedback from some hospice leaders about the possibilities. (*Hospice News*, 4/11, <https://hospicenews.com/2025/04/11/the-senior-living-opportunity-for-hospices/>)

~ **Congress is considering HR 2437, a bill that would amend a Medicare policy and mandate hospitals to “provide information on available hospice programs to certain individuals upon discharge.”** LeadingAge is considering whether to endorse the bill. The bill was introduced by Rep. Erin Houchin (R-IN). (*McKnight’s Home Care*, 4/2, <https://www.mcknightshomecare.com/news/federal-legislation-would-mandate-hospice-education-upon-hospital-discharge/>)

~ **“‘Disturbing’ Outlook: Hospices’ Top Regulatory Concerns in 2025,”** shared in *Hospice News*, **examines issues of concern that hospices face.** Leading regulatory issues include telehealth policies and program integrity concerns. An Outlook Survey, done last year, found 21% of respondents feeling that regulatory changes and increases in oversight continue to be concerns. Staffing and improved public awareness were also among top concerns. Fraud among hospices has been, and continues to be, of serious concern. More feedback about these and other issues is included in the article that is online at the link below. (*Hospice News*, 3/20, <https://hospicenews.com/2025/03/20/disturbing-outlook-hospices-top-regulatory-concerns-in-2025/>)

~ **Attorney Scott Levy is chief government affairs officer at the Alliance.** Audits, says Levy, and the resources that hospices must divert to respond to audits, is one of the huge challenges that hospices face. Transitioning to the HOPE tool is also a significant change this year. The Alliance, says Levy, is committed to “making sure the benefit is free of those bad actors” in hospice. (*Hospice News*, 3/21, <https://hospicenews.com/2025/03/21/national-alliances-scott-levy-hospices-need-regulatory-relief-to-protect-sacred-benefit/>)

~ **DEA has proposed a rule that “would require prescribers to register with the DEA before they are allowed to prescribe schedule II-V controlled substances. . .”** Members of

the hospice community believe this rule “could impeded timely access to medications for hospice and palliative care patients.” Though the rule would only apply to patients who have never been seen in-person by the medical provider, there would still be “adverse consequences for hospice and palliative care providers” says the Alliance. The Alliance offers recommendations to the DEA, including that hospice providers not be subject to in-person medical evaluations requirements. More details are online at the link below. (*Hospice News*, 3/20, <https://hospicenews.com/2025/03/20/hospice-community-responds-to-proposed-dea-telehealth-prescribing-rule/>)

~ **Arizona’s Nathan Adelson Hospice urges families to research hospice choices before choosing hospices.** The growth in hospices and a surge of transfers among hospice patients has found increasing numbers of persons saying they just do not feel they were receiving good care. Documented cases of bed sores, fever and bleeding among transfers are troubling. The hospice created a website, [ChoosingHospice.org](http://ChoosingHospice.org), to help families be more aware and make good choices in hospice care. (*Fox5*, 4/9, <https://www.fox5vegas.com/2025/04/09/las-vegas-non-profit-urges-families-research-hospice-care-after-facilities-see-surge-transfers-neglect/>)

~ *TCNtalks* offers an episode entitled “**Transforming Healthcare: Hospice in the News 2025,**” featuring host **Chris Comeaux and Cordt Kassner.** A summary of the episode and an audio are online, as well as an AI generated transcript. (*TCNtalks*, 4/2, <https://www.teleioscn.org/tcntalkspodcast/transforming-healthcare-hospice-in-the-news-march-2025>)

~ “**2 Key Trends Shaping the Hospice Workforce in 2025**” are “**New generations, educational opportunities,**” and “**Rising costs compounding shortages.**” Both of the trends are examined in an article in *Hospice News*. (*Hospice News*, 4/4, <https://hospicenews.com/2025/04/04/2-key-trends-shaping-the-hospice-workforce-in-2025/>)

~ **An article in *People* shares the story of the career of Julie McFadden, hospice nurse and author.** Known as Hospice Nurse Julie on Instagram and TikTok, McFadden offers education and information about death and dying. (*People*, 4/7, <https://people.com/hospice-nurse-reveals-biggest-misconceptions-about-her-job-exclusive-11703635>)

~ *TCNtalks* features host **Chris Comeaux speaking with Jeanne Chirico, President and CEO of Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State.** The podcast explores regulatory challenges, staffing issues, and the importance of advocacy. A video of the call, and a link to the transcript, are online at the link below. (*TCNtalks*, 3/19, <https://www.teleioscn.org/tcntalkspodcast/the-challenges-ahead-with-jeanne-chirico>)

~ **New York’s State Senate passed S.3437, a bill that would ban any new for-profit hospices in New York State, has passed both the house and the senate.** The bill was previously vetoed by Governor Hochul in 2022, and in 2023 and 2024 the bill was only passed by the Senate. Earlier, Gov. Hochul wanted input from the state’s Master Plan for Aging. Now that this has happened, Jeanne Chirico, executive director of the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York, hopes the governor will sign the bill. (*Spectrum News 1*, 4/12, <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-ny/politics/2025/04/10/a-victory-for-not-for-profit-hospice--if-hochul-signs-the-bill>)

~ **California Caregiver** shared an article about hospice fraud and offers advice on how to understand hospice fraud, know what it is, avoid it, and spot it. The article is online at the link below. (*California Caregiver*, 3/28, <https://www.caregivercalifornia.org/2025/03/28/understanding-hospice-fraud-what-it-is-how-to-avoid-it-and-how-to-spot-it/>)

~ **Hospices hopes to use AI to increase efficiency.** How that might happen is explored in an article linked below. (*Hospice News*, 4/4, <https://hospicenews.com/2025/04/04/how-hospices-can-avoid-pitfalls-in-ai-implementation/>)

~ **CHAP’s blog has a post by Jennifer Kennedy titled “HOPE Assessment Tool Series: Managing Circumstances.”** The blog examines patient transfers, administrative discharges, traveling patients, and tips for success. (CHAP, <https://chapinc.org/blog-news/hope-assessment-tool-series-managing-special-circumstances/>)

## PALLIATIVE CARE NOTES

~ ***Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing* offers “Opportunities and Barriers to Artificial Intelligence Adoption in Palliative/Hospice Care for Underrepresented Groups.”** The article explores the barriers for underrepresented groups in the US to access hospice and palliative care. Looking at numerous factors that create barriers, a scoping review “was applied to rapidly map the field of AI in palliative and hospice care.” The abstract, online at the link below, shares a summary of findings. (*Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing*, March 2025, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/389877565\\_Opportunities\\_and\\_Barriers\\_to\\_Artificial\\_Intelligence\\_Adoption\\_in\\_PalliativeHospice\\_Care\\_for\\_Underrepresented\\_Groups](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/389877565_Opportunities_and_Barriers_to_Artificial_Intelligence_Adoption_in_PalliativeHospice_Care_for_Underrepresented_Groups))

~ **An article in *JCO Oncology Practice* examines the disparities in end-of-life care for Native Americans who have lung disease, a leading cause of death among American Indian individuals.** Researchers say, “Results from our studies and others show that racial and ethnic minoritized populations with lung cancer experience more intensive end-of-life care than White populations with lung cancer.” This includes higher rates of hospitalizations in every setting and higher rates of hospital deaths. These persons often face a lack of access to palliative care. Researchers call for collaboration with patients, families, policymakers, health care organizations, tribal communities and the larger community. (*JCO Oncology Practice*, 4/4, <https://ascopubs.org/doi/10.1200/OP-25-00180>)

~ **Palliative care providers find themselves facing both opportunities and challenges.** *Hospice News*, on 4/1, shared “Palliative Care’s ‘Endless Opportunities’ to Grow.” On 4/2, the publication shared, “New Palliative Care Providers Face Turbulence at Take Off.” The articles, on line at the links below, share a number a number of opportunities and the challenges faced by new palliative care providers. (*Hospice News Palliative Care News*, 4/1, <https://hospicenews.com/2025/04/02/new-palliative-care-providers-face-turbulence-at-take-off/>; *Hospice News Palliative Care News*, 4/2, <https://chapinc.org/blog-news/hope-assessment-tool-compliance-saves-money/>)

~ **Congress is considering HR2437 that would require Medicare policy “to mandate that hospitals ‘provide information on available hospice programs to certain individuals upon discharge.’”** LeadingAge says it is “considering whether to endorse the legislation.” (*McKnight’s Home Care*, 4/2, <https://www.mcknightshomecare.com/news/federal-legislation-would-mandate-hospice-education-upon-hospital-discharge/>)

~ **While psychedelic-assisted therapy (PAT) may have utility in addressing concerns in palliative care, “gaps remain in understanding findings related to PAT’s role in palliative care.** A rapid review in *Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing*, calls for exploration of safety and efficacy, training for providers, and exploration of best delivery systems. (*Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing*, April 2025, [https://journals.lww.com/jhpn/abstract/2025/04000/a\\_rapid\\_review\\_of\\_psychedelic\\_assisted\\_therapy\\_in.5.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/jhpn/abstract/2025/04000/a_rapid_review_of_psychedelic_assisted_therapy_in.5.aspx))

~ **The Senate of Iowa has moved forward with HF933, “Masons Law,” a bill that “would create a pediatric palliative care license to establish residential care facilities for those under 21 with chronic and life-threatening illnesses. . . .”** The license, named after Mason Sieck, whose family had to leave the state for such treatment, would allow Mason’s Light House to be built, becoming the first such facility built with such a license. Three other similar facilities exist in the country, but they are created under other licenses. The bill passed the Iowa House in March unanimously. More details are online at the links below. (*PRWeb*, 3/31, <https://www.prweb.com/releases/iowa-introduces-masons-law-to-become-1st-state-to-have-a-pediatric-palliative-care-center-license-302415358.html>; *The Gazette*, 4/3, <https://www.thegazette.com/state-government/iowa-senate-advances-bill-to-license-palliative-care-centers-for-kids-with-life-threatening-illness/>)

## END-OF-LIFE NOTES

~ **The Oregon Health Authority released the 2024 “Oregon Death with Dignity Act Data Summary.”** Prescriptions received under the DWDA were given to 607 people in 2024. As of 1/25, OHA had notification that 376 persons died in 2024 from ingesting the medications, including 43 who had received the medications in previous years. Most of the patients who used the medications died at home and 92% of these persons were enrolled in hospice care. Detailed data analysis and feedback are included in the report which is online at the link below. (OHA, 3/27, <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PROVIDERPARTNERRESOURCES/EVALUATIONRESEARCH/DEATHWITHDIGNITYACT/Documents/year27.pdf>)

~ ***Geripal* offers an exploration of “Hastening Death by Stopping Eating and Drinking.”** The podcast features several experts who explore the topic. A summary, audio, and transcript are online at the link below. (*Geripal*, 3/20, <https://geripal.org/hastening-death-by-stopping-eating-and-drinking-hope-wechkin-thaddeus-pope-josh-briscoe/>)

~ **“Community” is an initiative of UCLA ICU that is focused on supporting patients and caregivers of those whose lives are about to end.** CCRN Linsay Brandt started the initiative. The story of the birth and evolution of the program is shared in the article below. (*Los Angeles*

*Times*, 3/20, <https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2025-03-20/show-up-and-share-the-nurse-led-effort-at-ucla-to-help-staff-live-with-dying0>)

~ **The story of how a California man spent his last day of life and then ended his life with MAID is the topic of an article in *People* magazine.** The article shares about Wayne Hopkins, his health, his decision, and the support of his family. (*People*, 4/8, <https://people.com/last-day-of-a-man-life-before-he-chooses-medical-aid-in-dying-11708594>)

~ **An article in *JAMA News Open* shares results of a cohort study that found that persons with less wealth “were more likely to experience high” symptom burden compared with medium or high wealth.** The findings indicate that “addressing functional disabilities and providing better support at the end of life may help improve patients’ end-of-life experiences and reduce disparities associated with wealth.” (*JAMA Network Open*, 3/6, [https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2831080#xd\\_co\\_f=NzBhOTZjM2QtNjE0Yi00NWl1LTg3YTctZTg1YmYwNDlkOGM0~](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2831080#xd_co_f=NzBhOTZjM2QtNjE0Yi00NWl1LTg3YTctZTg1YmYwNDlkOGM0~))

~ **In Delaware, HB140, that would allow medical aid in dying, is now headed to the Senate for a final vote.** The bill passed the House last month. (*Delaware Public Media*, 4/9, <https://www.delawarepublic.org/politics-government/2025-04-09/medical-aid-in-dying-heads-to-senate-for-final-vote-following-narrow-success-last-year>)

~ **As regulators have increased oversight of hospices in order to curb fraud, attorney Bill Dombi advises hospices to go “back to the basics” when dealing with compliance issues.** Three things, says Dombi, are really necessary for hospices. First, hospices can perform self-auditing and do internal analysis. Secondly, hospices can examine documentation efforts and be sure documentation is done correctly. Additionally, hospices can focus on management, by listening to staff and understanding their concerns. (*Hospice News*, 3/26, <https://hospicenews.com/2025/03/26/agg-new-days-bill-dombi-hospices-vibrant-evolutionary-path-spurs-legal-growing-pains/>)

~ **As hospices work to address staffing needs, an article in *Hospice News* focuses on the growing need for hospice aides.** This need, says the article, is only expected to grow in the upcoming years. “Recruiting and retaining aides is often a balancing act between the number of new entrants into that occupation and the specter of high turnover,” says the article, and the occupation’s growth rate is faster in the area of aides. With close to 40% of home health and hospice aides being immigrants, says the article, new immigration policies will impact staffing. (*Hospice News*, 3/28, <https://hospicenews.com/2025/03/28/unsung-backbone-of-care-delivery-the-growing-need-for-hospice-aides/>)

~ **Illinois SB9, which would enact a law allowing medical aid in dying, passed the Illinois Senate Executive Committee on 4/9.** A third reading deadline has been set for 5/9 as the next action on the bill. (Senatorholmes.com, 4/10, <https://www.senatorholmes.com/news/18-new-releases/409-holmes-outlines-legislation-to-allow-end-of-life-options-for-terminally-ill-patients>; Legiscan.com, <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/SB0009/2025>)

## GRIEF AND ADVANCE CARE PLANNING NOTES

~ **Florida nurses are advocating for a patient-directed medical order law (PDMO).** The PDMO will be focused on assuring that patients' desires for care are honored. The PDMO originates from the Oregon's POLST paradigm. Utilizing an electronic registry, patients will be more assured that their documents are available when needed. (*The Florida Nurse*, 3/19, <https://www.myamericannurse.com/impacting-end-of-life-care-with-new-healthcare-legislation-patient-directed-medical-orders-pdmo-in-advance-care-planning/>)

~ **The Bay Area's KALW Public Media shares a series of episodes focused on end-of life.** One episode examines the essential role of hospice care and features two hospice and palliative medicine physicians. Another episode features Dr. VJ Periyakoil, a geriatric and hospice physician of Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine and the founder and director of the Stanford Letter Project. A third episode addresses how to get end-of-life financial affairs in order and features two attorneys. Audio versions of each episode are found at the links below. (*KALW*, 3/11, <https://www.kalw.org/show/your-call/2025-03-11/what-do-you-want-to-know-about-hospice-and-end-of-life-care>; 3/18, <https://www.kalw.org/show/your-call/2025-03-18/the-stanford-letter-project-helps-you-discuss-your-end-of-life-wishes>; 3/26, <https://www.kalw.org/show/your-call/2025-03-26/how-to-get-your-end-of-life-financial-affairs-in-order>)

~ **Mayo Clinic's News Network addresses the importance of advance care planning.** The article provides basic advice about advance care planning. (*Mayo Clinic News Network*, 4/11, <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/mayo-clinic-q-and-a-securing-your-future-the-importance-of-advance-care-planning/>)

## OTHER NOTES

~ **New Mexico has become the third state to legalize the use of psilocybin in specific populations.** Oregon and Colorado also have state-legal psilocybin programs that were created via popular vote. New Mexico's program is the first to be mandated by the legislature. The program, authorized in SB219, is expected to launch by the end of 2025. The act will allow patients with specific conditions to "access and use non-synthetic psilocybin through consultation with a licensed healthcare provider," More details are online at the article below. (*Psychedelic Alpha*, 4/8, <https://psychedelicalpha.com/news/breaking-new-mexico-passes-nations-first-legislature-driven-psilocybin-access-act>)

~ **Hospice and Palliative Care Today offers a healthcare observance calendar that helps organizations plan for numerous healthcare recognition observances.** The calendar is online at the link below. (*Hospice and Palliative Care Today*, <https://www.hospicepalliativecaretoday.com/resources/healthcare-observances>)

~ **An article in McKnight's Home Care reports that, "As of May 2024, home health and personal care aids made up the largest single occupation in the US with 4 million workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment and Wages Summary Report. . ."** The *McKnight's* article includes other data points and is online at the link

below. (*McKnight's Home Care*, 4/7, <https://www.mcknightshomecare.com/news/home-care-aides-largest-occupation-in-us-as-of-last-may-bls-reports/>)

~ **With an unmet need of improved pain management and support for psychological distress, researchers call for continuing research on the use of psychedelics in treating cancer pain and distress.** An article in *Cancer Medicine* reports on a studies about the use of psychedelics to meet these needs and help patients. Early results, says the article, “are promising.” The authors call for continuing research “to understand the efficacy of psychedelics for the treatment of cancer pain and distress,” saying that recent regulatory changes make increased research possible. (*Cancer Pain*, 3/14, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40052631/>)

~ **Kaiser Family Foundation offers an article that explores the impact of new immigration policies on securing an adequate work force for long-term care.** Immigrants make up 28% of the overall direct long-term workforce, says the article. (KFF, 4/2, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/what-role-do-immigrants-play-in-the-direct-long-term-care-workforce/>)

~ **Kaiser Family Foundation shares an article about Medicare fraud and the efforts to stop fraud and waste.** The article, online at the link below, includes note of Medicare hospice fraud. (KFF, 3/31, <https://www.kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/medicare-program-integrity-and-efforts-to-root-out-improper-payments-fraud-waste-and-abuse/>)

~ **“Caregiving,” a documentary, created with executive producer Bradley Cooper, highlights challenges and triumphs of caregiving in America.** The two-hour documentary, narrated by actress Uzo Abuda, examines the everyday challenges and triumphs of caregivers. The documentary premieres on 6/24 on PBS and the PBS YouTube Channel, and will also be available for streaming on PBS.org and the PBS App starting on 5/27. (ABC27.com, 3/20, <https://www.abc27.com/business/press-releases/cision/20250320NY46050/executive-producer-bradley-coopers-film-caregiving-to-premiere-on-pbs-for-nationwide-broadcast-june-24-streaming-begins-may-27/>)

~ **An article in *Home Health Care* examines the impact of the Trump administration on the home health industry.** The article shares input offered during an Alliance webinar hosted by Polsinelli Law Firm, and led by Polsinelli’s CEO Jason Lee. The webinar explored potential Medicaid cuts, the need for workforce expansion and other issues, including how administrative actions are impacting home care and hospice. Details and updates are online in the article below. (*Home Health Care News*, 3/20, <https://homehealthcarenews.com/2025/03/trumps-first-60-days-the-impact-on-the-home-health-industry/>)

~ **Starks Funeral Parlor in Millcreek, Utah, is the first Utah funeral home to offer “human composting.”** The article below describes the process. (*Salt Lake City Weekly*, 3/19, <https://www.cityweekly.net/utah/dust-to-dust/Content>)

~ **Home Hospital is a program of Mass General Brigham’s Healthcare at Home.** The program offers expert hospital-level care to patients in their own homes. When/if patients’ health declines, they can transition to Home-based Palliative Care. The article describes the programs and about one family’s experience. (Mass General Brigham, 3/21,

<https://www.massgeneralbrigham.org/en/about/newsroom/patient-stories/bill-home-palliative-care>)

NOTE: Some URL links require subscription, membership and/or registration.

*Hospice Analytics is the national sponsor of Hospice News Network for 2025. Hospice Analytics is an information-sharing research organization whose mission is to improve hospice utilization and access to quality end-of- life care. For additional information, please call Dr. Cordt Kassner, CEO, at 719-209-1237 or see [www.HospiceAnalytics.com](http://www.HospiceAnalytics.com).*

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