



November 19, 2008

Volume 2, Number 9

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In the News

National Priorities Partnership Set Priorities for Transforming Healthcare

The National Priorities Partnership has identified [six priorities](#) for transforming healthcare. Palliative and end-of-life care is on that list. Priorities were selected based on their ability to reform healthcare in ways that will eliminate waste, harm, and disparities, as well as create and expand world-class, patient-centered, affordable healthcare.

[NPP](#) is a diverse group of national organizations representing those who receive, pay for, deliver, and evaluate healthcare.

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CMS Recognizes Hospice & Palliative Medicine as Medical Subspecialty

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) now recognizes Hospice and Palliative Medicine as a [medical subspecialty](#).

This recognition will streamline reimbursement to hospice and palliative medicine professionals serving Medicare beneficiaries.

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Social Worker Certification Created

Starting this month, social workers can now receive national [certification](#) in Hospice and Palliative Care from the National Association of Social Workers.

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More Patients Receive Hospice

Recently released data from the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization reflecting 2007 usage of hospice, indicates that:

- 39% of all deaths in the US were under the care of hospice (from 35% in 2006).
- 1.4 million people with a life-limiting illness received care from the nation's 4,700 hospice providers.
- Average length of service increased to 67.4 days (from 59.8 days in 2006).
- 31% of those served by hospice died or were discharged in

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seven days or less.

- 13% of those served died or were discharged in 180 days or more.

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Diane Meier Receives MacArthur Fellowship

Diane Meier MD, a geriatrician and Director of the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC), is recipient of a 2008 [MacArthur Fellowship](#). Dr Meier received the award for her work in shaping the field of palliative care. Each MacArthur Fellow receives \$500,000 in no-strings-attached support over the next five years to accelerate and expand their current activities.

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MPTV Fund Receives Quality in Palliative Care Leadership Award

The Motion Picture and Television Fund was awarded a 2008 [Quality in Palliative Care Leadership Award](#), which recognize organizations that have implemented palliative care principles promoted by the National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care and the National Quality Forum.

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Conferences & Trainings

The Role of the Chaplain on a Palliative Care Team

This [audio conference](#) features Timothy Ford, staff chaplain at VCU Massey Cancer Center and Rev. George F. Handzo, VP HealthCare Chaplaincy in New York.

Sponsor: Center to Advance Palliative Care

December 3, 2008, 10:30-11:30am PST

\$89 per phone line

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Palliative Care – The Business and Clinical Case

This [conference](#) is designed especially for CEOs, CFOs and COOs from California hospitals that do not yet have a palliative care program or who wish to expand an existing program.

Sponsor: Hospital Association of Southern California

January 15, 2009, 8:00am - 4:30pm

Burbank Airport Marriott

Burbank, CA

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ELNEC: Pediatric Palliative Care

This [course](#) is for pediatric nurses and palliative care teams who want to increase their knowledge of end-of-life issues.

Sponsor: City of Hope & American Association of Colleges of Nursing
February 20-21, 2009

Sacramento, CA

A grant from the Archstone Foundation provides free registration for the first 100 eligible nurses.

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Cornerstones of Care

A unique [educational series](#) that explores the cornerstones of professional eldercare.

Sponsor: Institute on Aging

All programs run from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Early-Bird Registration: \$110/program (Must be received by Jan 30th, May 1st, Sept 4th)

[The Labyrinth of Caregiving: Current and Future Issues and Options](#)

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

[Complexities of Clinical Care in the 21st Century](#)

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

[Capacity: What Is It? How Do We Assess It? What Happens When We Lose It?](#)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

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Resources

Finding Your Way Updated

Sacramento Healthcare Decision's popular *Finding Your Way* booklet now has updated content and a more contemporary design. The booklet encourages early family discussions and helps patients and their loved ones consider difficult decisions about medical treatment near the end of life.

To order, visit Sacramento Healthcare Decisions [End-of-Life Materials](#) webpage.

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New Resources Available in Chinese

The [Chinese American Coalition for Compassionate Care](#) and Caring Connections have produced a series of Chinese-English [bilingual materials](#) on important end-of-life issues.

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New Resources on Spiritual Support

Caring Connections has produced *It's About How You LIVE – In Faith Outreach Guide* and a consumer brochure on *Offering Spiritual Support for Family or Friends*. Materials may be downloaded free of

charge at www.caringinfo.org/faith.

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Crosswalk of National Quality Forum Preferred Practices

The Center to Advance Palliative Care has produced a [crosswalk](#) to help palliative care programs put the 38 National Quality Forum Preferred Practices into action.

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Newsletters are available on the CCCC Website (www.finalchoices.org) in PDF format for anyone who is having trouble reading this email version.