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CCCC Activities

Increasing Palliative Care in Nursing Homes

CCCC has received a grant from the California HealthCare Foundation to improve care at end of life in nursing homes by promoting a clear set of end-of-life practices, developed through consensus and endorsed by the state. The practices will be piloted in nursing homes, with the goal to reduce hospital transfers at end of life.

CCCC and the [California Culture Change Coalition](#) are co-grantees on this project.

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National Public Policy

Healthcare Reform Bill Addresses Advance Care Planning

The House of Representatives formally introduced healthcare reform legislation last week. Section 1233 of the legislation provides coverage for advance care planning conversations between doctors and their patients, including discussion of orders for life-sustaining treatment.

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CMS Adds New Physician Specialty Code

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has established a new physician [specialty code](#) for hospice and palliative care. The new specialty code goes into effect October 1, 2009.

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People on the Move

Jeanne Wun Named Chair of CACCC

Jeanne Wun, community relations manager at Hospice of the Valley in San Jose, has been elected as the new board chair for the Chinese American Coalition for Compassionate Care.

[CACCC](#), the first non-profit organization in the nation devoted to end-of-life issues facing Chinese Americans, has grown to more than 60 organizations since its inception in 2005.

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and Loss

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Betty Ferrell Named Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing

Betty Ferrell, RN, PhD has been named Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing* starting January 1, 2010.

Dr. Ferrell is a Research Scientist at the City of Hope National Medical Center and Principal Investigator of the End of Life Nursing Education (ELNEC) Project.

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California Researchers

The American Cancer Society and the National Palliative Care Research Center have awarded \$1.5 million in research grants aimed at reducing suffering for seriously-ill patients and their family caregivers.

Three out of the 11 researchers are in California, namely:

- Michael Rabow, MD, University of California, San Francisco
- Scott Irwin, MD, PhD, Institute for Palliative Medicine at San Diego Hospice
- Alexander Smith, MD, MPH, University of California, San Francisco

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Announcements

Hastings Center Cunniff-Dixon Physician Awards

Four awards totaling \$95,000 will be presented annually to physicians who have demonstrated a serious commitment to end-of-life care through leadership and practice. [Nominations](#) will be accepted through September 26, 2009.

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Education

West Coast Conference on Aging

The West Coast Conference on Aging offers cutting-edge programs and continuing education for professionals who work with older adults and their families.

Sponsor: American Society on Aging

Date: September 8-11

Location: Oakland Marriott City Center

Cost: Early registration on or before August 25. Fees based on number of sessions attended.

For more information, [click here](#).

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Making the Financial Case for Pediatric Palliative Care

Learn creative strategies to “make the case” for the creation and continued existence of pediatric palliative care programs.

Sponsor: Center to Advance Palliative Care

Date: July 30, 10:30 – 11:30am

Cost: \$89 per phone line or \$99 for one phone line plus the audio conference CD-ROM

For more information, [click here](#).

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Palliative Care Team Self-Care: Avoiding Burnout

This audio conference focuses on the challenging balance of caring for ourselves while caring for others. What are the unique aspects of compassion fatigue for professionals working in the field of palliative care? What strategies can help palliative care professionals strengthen their personal resiliency?

Sponsor: Center to Advance Palliative Care

Date: August 13, 10:30 – 11:30am

Cost: \$89 per phone line or \$99 for one phone line plus the audio conference CD-ROM

For more information, [click here](#).

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Supporting People with Intellectual Disabilities through Illness, Grief and Loss

Learn the differences and similarities in how persons with intellectual disabilities may respond to the illness and death of a loved one.

Sponsor: Hospice Foundation of America

Date: September 15, 10:00 - 11:00am

Cost: \$25 per registration or \$75 per organization.

For more information, [click here](#).

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Resources

Palliative Care Grand Rounds -- July 2009

[Palliative Care Grand Rounds](#) is a monthly summary of interesting, thought-provoking, timely, and relevant postings from the blogosphere about palliative care and end-of-life issues.

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Research

Open Discussions Best for End-of-Life Care

A new study in [Open Medicine](#) indicates that in five Canadian hospitals when discussions do occur with patients who have advanced terminal

disease and their families about prognosis it facilitates advance care planning and improves satisfaction with end-of-life care. However, these discussions occur infrequently.

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Conversations Delayed about End-of-Life Choices

A [Harvard Medical School study](#) published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* looked at patients in California, Iowa and Alabama with metastasized lung cancer. Researchers found that about half of these terminally-ill patients had not had discussions with their physicians regarding end-of-life choices.

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