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CCCC News

Become a CCCC Member!

For over 10 years, CCCC has brought people together to work to improve end-of-life care in California. We need your support in 2010!

[Become an official member](#) of CCCC. Members receive reduced rates for CCCC events and trainings.

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Save the Date! CCCC's Annual Conference – April 19

CCCC's 2nd Annual Conference and Membership Meeting – ***Visions: New Directions for Compassionate Care*** – will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Sacramento on April 19, 2010. Mark your calendar and watch for more details soon.

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POLST Train-the-Trainer Course

POLST: It Starts with a Conversation, CCCC's two-day train-the-trainer course provides opportunities for attendees to develop skills for facilitating meaningful conversations with patients and their families about POLST and goals of care. Space is limited. Sign up early!

Dates: February 24-25, 2010

Location: Sierra Health Foundation, Sacramento

Cost: \$169 for CCCC members; \$199 for non-members.

Click [here](#) for a registration form.

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Federal Policy

House Health Reform Bill includes Advance Care Planning Provision

The Health Care Reform Bill passed by the House includes provision for physician reimbursement for talking with their patients about advance care planning. The bill also states that federal funds cannot be used to "promote" assisted suicide, euthanasia or mercy killing. At this time, there are no similar provisions in the Senate version of Health Care Reform.

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Resources

New Brochure on Palliative Care

Palliative Care: The Relief You Need When You're Experiencing the Symptoms of Serious Illness was recently released by the National Institute of Nursing Research. This 14-page brochure lists the many benefits of palliative care and explains how it is different from hospice and how it works in tandem with medical treatment.

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New Site Rates CA Long Term Care Services

The California HealthCare Foundation has launched a new web site rating thousands of the state's long term care providers. The free online service, CalQualityCare.org, rates the care provided by nursing homes, hospice programs, and home health agencies, where data is available to evaluate performance.

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News & Notices

Physicians Lack Training to Treat Chronic Pain

A new [report](#) released by the Mayday Fund highlights the lack of physician training to treat chronic pain. Many major health groups have endorsed the report which calls for urgent medical school and health system reform

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Hospice Length of Service Continues to Decrease

The [National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization](#) (NHPCO) reports that more than 35% of patients served by hospices in 2008 died or were discharged in seven days or less. This reflects a 4.6% increase from 2007, when 30.8% of patients had what is considered a short hospice experience.

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Education

ELNEC-Geriatric Train-the-Trainer

This course is designed for those who serve in skilled nursing facilities, assisted living, homecare, clinics, acute care and hospice.

Sponsors: American Association of Colleges of Nursing & City of Hope

Date: April 29-30, 2010

Location: Pasadena, CA

An Archstone Foundation grant will provide free registration for the first 100 eligible nurses.

For more information about this and other ELNEC courses in 2010, [click here](#).

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Hospital Mortality Rates and Implications for Palliative Care Programs

An examination of how hospital mortality reporting impacts palliative care programs.

Sponsor: Center to Advance Palliative Care

Date: January 13, 10:30 – 11:30am

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

To register, click [here](#).

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Growing the Business Case for Palliative Care

This course covers the growing business and clinical/quality improvement case for palliative care at a time of intense national focus on system reform, patient care quality and overall health care cost reduction.

Sponsor: Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC)

Date: February 10, 2010

Location: Pacific Palms Resort, Industry, CA

Click [here](#) for event summary and to register online.

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People on the Move

Kathryn Keller & Tim Dauwalder Recognized as Pain Champions

The [Alliance of State Pain Initiatives](#) recognized two California doctors who have made outstanding contributions to the growth, development and accomplishments of a State Pain Initiative – Tim Dauwalder, DO, Medical Director for VNA Hospice of Southern California in Claremont, and Dr. Kathryn Keller, PharmD, who serves on the Northern California Pain Initiative Advisory Council.

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Diane Meier to Staff Senate HELP Committee

Selected as one of four resident [2009-2010 Health and Aging Policy Fellows](#), CAPC Director, Diane E. Meier, MD, has accepted a one-year post on the [Senate HELP Committee](#). The committee has jurisdiction over issues such as workforce, medical education, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

[Dr. Meier](#) posts regularly on Twitter as she participates in the policymaking.

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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.