

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: Newspaper Shines Spotlight On Hospice Fraud, Lobbying

The hospice industry is getting a bad rap in a widely read national newspaper.

USA Today ran an article profiling **VITAS** and **Gentiva Health Services Inc.**'s \$1.2 billion lobbying bill so far this year. The newspaper says the "for-profit hospice organizations ... [are] lobbying to prevent Medicare from reducing payments to try to curb the soaring cost of hospice care."

And USA Today highlights the **Hospice Action Network**, which has enlisted at least four lobbying firms and has spent \$607,476. HAN is the **National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's** advocacy affiliate, the network explains on its website.

Plus: Earlier in the month, USA Today ran an article profiling fraud and abuse charges leveled against VITAS and Gentiva and covering Medicare's increased spending on the benefit.