

## Eli's Hospice Insider

### Hospice Notes: Unraveling Of San Diego Hospice Legacy Continues

San Diego-based **Scripps Health**, the health system that bought high-profile **San Diego Hospice's** cliff-top inpatient facility when that organization went bankrupt nearly five years ago, has shut down its hospice business line. San Diego Hospice declared bankruptcy in February 2013 after revealing a Medicare audit focusing on patients' eligibility for the Medicare hospice benefit. The property, which included a 24-bed hospice and several administrative buildings, was built with an \$18.5 million donation from the late **Joan Kroc**, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune.

After a bidding war, Scripps beat out **Sharp Healthcare** with a \$16.55 million bid. If they won, both Scripps and Sharp pledged to preserve the numerous memorials throughout the buildings and along a perimeter garden walking path.

But now Scripps has shuttered its hospice unit, and has sold the facility with an ocean view to an apartment complex developer for \$20 million, according to the newspaper.

Scripps CEO **Chris Van Gorder** says its hospice business lost \$2 to \$3 million per year for a total of \$14 million. Scripps worked with Escondido-based **Elizabeth Hospice** on transitioning staff and patients, the Union-Tribune says.