

## CLINICAL USES: PATIENTS IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE (CNIN NOVEMBER 2009)

- You are working with a nurse visiting your service through the PEPA program. He is from a large high level care Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) where they look after patients with Dementia.
- The nurse is asking about resources for staff in how to support these patients who in particular he feels they do not manage well. Where would you direct him to go?



CareSearch has information within the [Clinical Practice](#) section of the website dealing with [Specific Populations](#).

Here there are pages written especially on caring for the [Aged](#), those in [Aged Care Facilities](#) and those with [Dementia](#). Each page highlights issues specific to these groups and has an associated [PubMed Topic Search](#).

Within the Clinical Practice section there are pages on various clinical topics that should also be considered for RACF staff as resources.

Some facilities will discuss end-of-life care with patients and families about the time they are admitted, to enable informed choices once the patient is no longer able to communicate their wishes. Relevant information on [Advanced Care Planning](#) can be found in the [Patient Considerations](#) section. The page has PubMed Topic Searches on [Advance Care Planning](#) and [Advance Directives](#).

In the CareSearch [Disease Specific Resources](#) section is a link to Alzheimer's Australia where further relevant information can be found.

In the [For Patients and Families](#) section is information for the family and friends of residents who may wish to find out more. This includes pages in the [Specific Groups](#) pages on [Aged](#) and [Dementia](#). If people do not have internet access pages can be printed and given to them to read later or to help initiate discussions.

As the RACF has GPs coming in to see their patients, staff may like to let them know about the [GP pages](#). Information can be found in the GP pages on Specific Populations including information on [Aged](#) and [In Residential Aged Care](#). The [GP Resources](#) section has a comprehensive set of tools, information and other resources including materials relevant to caring for older people such as the Abbey Pain Scale and pain assessment tools for the cognitively impaired, useful for pain assessment in Dementia patients.

CareSearch is an online resource funded by the Department of Health and Ageing to help clinicians and consumers find relevant evidence about palliative care. Available now at [www.caresearch.com.au](http://www.caresearch.com.au)