

# CareSearch: Developing resources for Heart Failure

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What is CareSearch?  
Why Heart Failure?  
Why a filter?

# What is CareSearch?

- Funded by Australian Government under National Palliative Care Program
  - Those providing palliative care
  - Those needing palliative care and their families, carers and friends
- Website and online resources
- Facilitate access to, and use of, evidence in practice





CareSearch, palliative care knowledge network

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**Welcome to CareSearch.** CareSearch is an online resource of palliative care information and evidence. All materials included in this website are reviewed for quality and relevance.

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What is Palliative Care



For Patients and Families



Finding Services



Clinical Practice



Finding Evidence



Education



Research Resources



Professional Groups



About CareSearch

Proudly linked to:



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CareSearch is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the National Palliative Care Program.

*This page was created on 26 May 2008. This website was last updated on 27 August 2010*

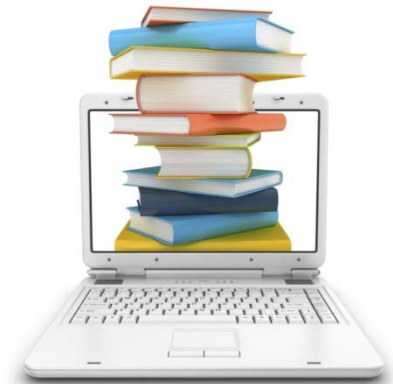
# Why Heart Failure?

- Complex syndrome associated with a reduced quality of life and a poor prognostic outlook
- Ageing population increases prevalence of HF
- HF patients may have unmet needs in relation to palliative and end-of-life care



# Knowledge needs

- Population health consideration
- Prognostic uncertainty
- Symptom and care issues
- Service models and care settings
- How to support carers and families
- Implementation, change processes



## Why a HF filter?

- Expanding knowledge base, dynamic clinical evidence
- Complexity of information infrastructure
- Inefficiencies, deficiencies in searching
- Indexing, descriptors



# What is a filter?

A filter is a tool to retrieve relevant literature.

- More than an expert search
- Developed experimentally following a strict research methodology
- A search strategy that has been tested to determine how well it finds a specific type of literature (e.g. RCTs) or literature about a specific topic (e.g. renal)

# Developing the HF filter

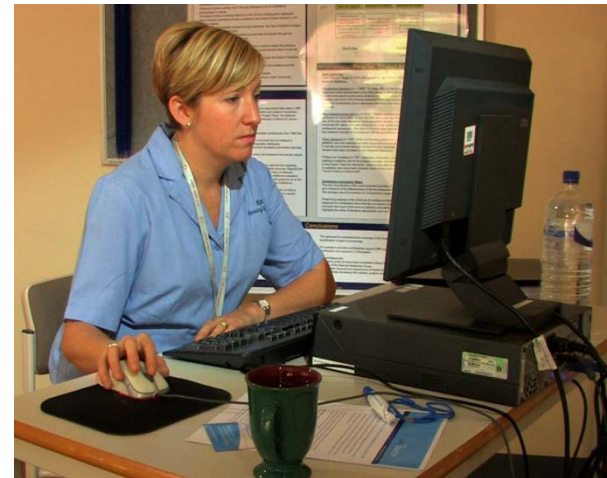
1. HF Gold Standard article set;
2. Term identification;
3. Filter development;
4. Filter testing;
5. External validation; and
6. Post-hoc precision estimate

## So what is the HF filter?

- Research undertaken in Ovid Medline SP
- Final filter comprises four terms  
*'heart failure.mp. OR Ventricular dysfunction, Left.sh. OR cardiomyopathy.mp OR left ventricular ejection fraction.mp.'*

# Making the HF filter useful

- Reality check:
  - Not everyone has access to Ovid Medline
  - Many not sure how to save a search
  - How to find HF and specific clinical concerns



## PubMed HF filter

- PubMed is
  - Largest biomedical repository (>20 million items)
  - Open access to citations
  - Free full text limit
- Converted HF to PubMed syntax
  - Created it as a hyperlink
  - Combined with 30+ topics relevant to HF
- One click searching

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**Heart Failure PubMed Searches**

The links on this page provide an easy and reliable way to find the relevant heart failure literature in English. Each link runs an immediate search of PubMed and all searches are automatically updated as new articles are added to the database.

**CareSearch search filters**

[Heart failure](#)

This search uses a heart failure filter developed by CareSearch. It retrieves all English language articles of relevance to heart failure within PubMed.

[Palliative care and heart failure](#)

This search combines the heart failure filter with the CareSearch [palliative care filter](#) to retrieve all English language heart failure articles of relevance to palliative care.

**Heart failure: specific issue searches**

These links make it possible to search on specific heart failure topics such as hospitalisations, anaemia and quality of life. Each search combines MeSH terms and textwords describing the topic with the CareSearch heart failure filter. Results are therefore limited to the English, heart failure related literature.

**Patient problems**

- [Anaemia](#)
- [Anxiety](#)
- [Cachexia \(Weight Loss\)](#)
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- [Decompensated HF](#)
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**Palliative Care and Heart Failure**

Select one PubMed topic search option for your chosen search topic. 

**Free full text only** (likely to reduce the number of results)  
[Strongest evidence](#) (systematic reviews or randomised controlled trials)  
[Everything](#)

**All citations**  
[Strongest evidence](#) (systematic reviews or randomised controlled trials)  
[Everything](#)  
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**Palliative care:** An approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual (Source: [WHO Definition of Palliative Care](#)).

To choose another topic, go back to [Heart Failure PubMed Topic Searches](#)

*This page was created on 12 October 2010*

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Display Settings: Summary, 20 per page, Sorted by Recently Added

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**Results: 1 to 20 of 150**

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Filter your results:

All (150)

[Free Full Text \(39\)](#)

[Review \(36\)](#)

[Manage Filters](#)

[Plasma B-type natriuretic peptide levels in children with heart disease.](#)  
 1. Knirsch W, Häusermann E, Fasnacht M, Hersberger M, Gessler P, Bauersfeld U.  
 Acta Paediatr. 2011 Mar 9. doi: 10.1111/j.1651-2227.2011.02258.x. [Epub ahead of print]  
 PMID: 21388448 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]  
[Related citations](#)

[Palliative care in advanced heart failure: an international review of the perspectives of recipients and health professionals on care provision.](#)  
 2. Low J, Pattenden J, Candy B, Beattie JM, Jones L.  
 J Card Fail. 2011 Mar;17(3):231-52. Epub 2010 Dec 3.  
 PMID: 21362532 [PubMed - in process]  
[Related citations](#)

[Hospital-based palliative medicine consultation: a randomized controlled trial.](#)  
 3. Pantilat SZ, O'Riordan DL, Dibble SL, Landefeld CS.  
 Arch Intern Med. 2010 Dec 13;170(22):2038-40. No abstract available.  
 PMID: 21149765 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]  
[Related citations](#)

[Regional variations in palliative care: do cardiologists follow guidelines?](#)  
 4. Matlock DD, Peterson PN, Sirovich BE, Wennberg DE, Gallagher PM, Lucas FL.  
 J Palliat Med. 2010 Nov;13(11):1315-9. Epub 2010 Oct 18.  
 PMID: 20954826 [PubMed - in process]  
[Related citations](#)

[Inotropic therapy for end-stage heart failure patients.](#)  
 5. Toma M, Starling RC.  
 Curr Treat Options Cardiovasc Med. 2010 Oct;12(5):409-19.  
 PMID: 20842563 [PubMed - in process]  
[Related citations](#)

[Heart failure therapy: beyond the guidelines.](#)  
 6. Thompson KA, Bharadwaj P, Philip KJ, Schwarz ER.  
 J Cardiovasc Med (Hagerstown). 2010 Dec;11(12):919-27. Review.  
 PMID: 20671567 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]  
[Related citations](#)

[Activating seniors to improve chronic disease care: results from a pilot intervention study.](#)  
 7. Frosch DJ, Rincon D, Ochoa S, Mandione CM

**E-mail Alert Video Tutorial**



See larger video at YouTube

See all NCBI YouTube video channel videos

**10 free full-text articles in PubMed Central**

The BELFRAIL (BFC80+) study: a population-based prospective cohort study [BMC Geriatr. 2010]

Patients' self-assessed functional status in heart failure by New York Heart Association [J Card Fail. 2010]

Detection of myocardial damage in patients with sarcoidosis. [Circulation. 2009]

See all (10)...

**Find related data**

Database:

## Other HF resources

- Clinical Practice
  - Six pages based on overview of systematic review evidence
  - Heart Failure; Prognostic Issues, Symptoms and Patients' Experiences; Management Issues; Families and Carers; Service Issues
- CareSearch Review Collection: Heart Failure

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**Carers and Families**

**What is known**

Social support has a significant effect on the quality of life and prognosis of patients, and may reduce depression and anxiety. Lack of emotional support has been independently associated with a higher rate of fatal and non-fatal cardiac events. Caregivers of patients with heart failure often do not access formal social services but nonetheless they carry a significant burden of care. Most often care is provided by spouses of elderly patients who are themselves elderly, and who have their own health vulnerabilities. [1]

There is moderate evidence from a systematic review of the literature that interventions to support caregivers at the end of a patients' life can be effective, although the effect sizes are generally small. [2] Interventions that were studied included various combinations of skills training, emotional and behavioural assistance, in-home support, and enhanced technologies, and the interventions that were most effective were those that were comprehensive and individually targeted. None of the studies identified carers of patients with heart failure as a specific population.

Caregiver satisfaction with end of life care has been examined, although again, heart failure patients were not specifically studied. Involvement of palliative care services has been shown to improve caregivers' satisfaction with care around the time of death. [2-3]

**Implications for practice**

- > Little evidence is available to guide the development of programs specifically to assist caregivers and families of patients with heart failure. It is clear that the support of a carer makes a considerable difference to patients' quality of life.
- > As part of a palliative and holistic approach to care, support and information needs of caregivers should be routinely assessed. In particular, caregivers need to have information to manage both day to day care and deteriorating symptoms, and have plans for emergencies that are appropriate for the patient's wishes and prognosis. Advance care planning should include the patient's family and caregivers in almost all circumstances.
- > Cultural issues must also be considered in individualising care. Making use of culturally specific resources to help communication with patients and their families is important in understanding specific cultural issues that may affect their care. Liaising with

# General CareSearch Resources

- Clinical Practice: Information on common symptom and care issues in palliative care
- Nurses Hub and GP Hub
- For Patients and Families
- Promotional resources (for staff and for patients/families)



# Finding out more

- HR Filter

Damarell RA, Tieman J, Sladek RM, Davidson PM. Development of a heart failure filter for Medline: an objective approach using evidence-based clinical practice guidelines as an alternative to hand searching. BMC Med Res Methodol. 2011 Jan 28;11:12.

- CareSearch HF pages

- Clinical Practice > Heart Failure

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/ClinicalPractice/DiseasesConditions/HeartFailure/tabid/1637/Default.aspx>

- Heart Failure PubMed Searches

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/ClinicalPractice/DiseasesConditions/HeartFailure/HeartFailurePubMedSearches/tabid/1539/Default.aspx>

- CareSearch Review Collection > Heart Failure

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/FindingEvidence/CareSearchReviewCollection/ReviewCollectionHeartfailure/tabid/799/Default.aspx>

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