



FROM THE WEBSITE

HONcode certification

HON (Health on the Net) Foundation aims to improve the quality of information intended to both patients and medical professionals by facilitating quick access to the most relevant and up-to-date medical discoveries. HONcode is the oldest and the most used ethical and trustworthy code for medical and health related information available on the Internet. Each year the HONcode team revisit the CareSearch site and review it for HONcode compliance. We are pleased to have been advised that following review our HONcode certificate has been extended.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender pages

Being part of a minority sexual group can influence patterns of health. For all patients receiving palliative care, their lifetimes' social experiences come together at the end of life to provide a network of relationships which provide the dying person with their most essential emotional and practical support. Two new pages provide information and resources for health professionals and for patients and their families. The pages are:

- > [Issues for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender individuals](#)
- > [Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender \(For patients and families\)](#).

Six Steps Fact Sheet

The CareSearch website has numerous pages and collections of information. When looking for clinical information there are six steps you can follow to find the most appropriate type and level of evidence. A new [fact sheet](#) describes this approach to finding the evidence in CareSearch. Copies of the Six Steps fact sheet can be ordered for staff or to distribute during education activities.

Update to Pain pages

The [Pain pages](#) in Clinical Practice have been updated to include new reviews on the assessment and management of pain.

Wall planner

We have produced a CareSearch wall planner for 2010. Copies are being posted to palliative care services and to Divisions of General Practice. We have a small number remaining so if you would like one please contact caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

CareSearch Grey Literature database

Numerous abstracts from the PCA conference have already been added to the [Grey Literature database](#). We have also had a number of authors who have made available to CareSearch their poster PDFs. We are starting to add them at the moment. This means that at the bottom of the abstract there will be a link to a PDF of the poster that was presented at the conference. If you made a presentation or had a poster at the Palliative Care Australia conference, it is not too late to have details included in the CareSearch Grey Literature database. To have your work included, complete the [permission slip](#) and return it to us at caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

Please also let us know of reports or major documents relating to palliative care that have been produced but are not being published within journals. We can include details to make sure that this knowledge is not lost.

Research Studies Register

Two new studies have been added to the [Research Studies Register](#):

- > [Evaluation of a volunteer-based client biography service](#)
Francis Icasiano
- > [Living and dying at home with dementia: who decides?](#)
Penny Roe

We will contact listed researchers shortly to find out whether their studies have been completed and if there are citations or reports that can be included on the website.

CareSearch Review Collection

Seventeen reviews were added to the [CareSearch Review Collection](#) in November 2009. They included:

- > Jocham HR, Dassen T, Widdershoven G, Halfens R. [Evaluating palliative care - a review of the literature](#). Palliative Care: Research and Treatment. 2009 Mar 20;3:5-12.

The paper involved a literature review of published research. Many of the reviewed papers concluded similarly that there was a lack of good quality evidence on which to base conclusions. The authors suggest that traditional indicators of the health intervention outcomes such as mortality and morbidity are inadequate and that outcome research in palliative care is a new area of clinical research requiring further study.

- > Sreedharan A, Harris K, Crellin A, Forman D, Everett SM. [Interventions for dysphagia in oesophageal cancer](#). Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2009 Oct 7;(4):CD005048.

This review systematically analysed and summarised the efficacy of different interventions used in the palliation of dysphagia in primary oesophageal carcinoma. 2542 patients from 40 studies were included. The authors concluded self-expanding metal stent insertion is safe, effective and quicker in palliating dysphagia compared to other modalities. However, high-dose intraluminal brachytherapy is a suitable alternative and might provide additional survival benefit with a better quality of life.

- > Bishop K, Mele N, Koppmann MJ, Day S. [A review of paediatric palliative care nursing education in Latin America](#). Int J Palliat Nurs. 2009 15(8):377-82.

The authors noted that although some formal and informal palliative nursing education is available in Latin America, paediatric palliative nursing remains a rare subspecialty practice within the region. The review identified a number of existing support structures and resources as well as barriers.

- > Chida Y, Vedhara K. [Adverse psychosocial factors predict poorer prognosis in HIV disease: a meta-analytic review of prospective investigations](#). Brain Behav Immun. 2009 May;23(4):434-45.

The overall meta-analysis examined 36 articles including 100 psychosocial and disease related relationships. The authors concluded that there is a robust relationship between adverse psychosocial factors and HIV disease progression. There is also some evidence that some psychosocial factors are most strongly associated with HIV disease progression.

- > Lee M, Chodosh J. [Dementia and life expectancy: what do we know?](#) J Am Med Dir Assoc. 2009 10(7):466-71

Forty eight studies were included in this review of dementia prognosis and survival. Increased age, male gender, decreased functional status, and medical co morbidities such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and malignancy were associated with a higher mortality rate in dementia patients.

CNIN November 2009

The CareSearch Nurses Information Newsletter for [November 2009](#) is now available. This issue looks at:

- > [Clinical Uses: Patients in Residential Aged Care](#)
- > [Evidence Based Practice: Implementing Evidence using Residential Aged Care as an example](#)
- > [CareSearch Page Profile: Promotional resources](#)

Previous newsletters and all the CNIN topic sheets can be found on the [CNIN page](#).



WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

NICE guidance on treatment and management of depression in adults with chronic physical health problems

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published guidance on [treatment and management of depression in adults with a chronic physical health problem](#).

New pan-European Palliative Care Research Centre established

A first-ever [pan-European Palliative Care Research Centre](#) has been established. The Centre aims to improve patient palliative care and end-of-life care by coordinating efforts between groups and individual researchers across Europe with the intent of boosting the amount of international multi centre studies.

THE FIRST EVER PAN-EUROPEAN PALLIATIVE CARE RESEARCH CENTRE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. THE CENTRE AIMS TO IMPROVE PATIENT PALLIATIVE CARE AND END-OF-LIFE CARE...

2010 Churchill Fellowships in Health and Medicine

The Churchill Trust are seeking applications for [2010 Churchill Fellowships in Health and Medicine](#). You can contact the National Office to receive your application package or download it from the website. Closing date for applications is 26 February 2010.

Strengthening Palliative Care in Victoria through Health Promotion - Final Report

The Final report [Strengthening Palliative Care in Victoria through Health Promotion](#) is now available. The key findings of this project were that a range of individuals and groups in local communities are interested in building their capacity to care for those living with life threatening illnesses.

Reforms to the Coroners Act (Victoria)

The new Coroners Act 2008 commenced on 1 November 2009 and implements a [number of reforms and changes](#). In particular, the State Coroners Office of Victoria is now the Coroners Court of Victoria, and the definitions of 'reportable' and 'reviewable' deaths have changed.

You can find out more about what is happening in the palliative care community by checking "[What's New in the community](#)" page.

RESEARCH NEWS

Perpetual 2010 Funding Round

Perpetual Philanthropic Services has provided advice on the [2010 Funding Round](#). Applications close on Friday 5 February 2010. Grant seeker workshops are being held throughout Australia.

2010 Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme

Cancer Australia and its funding partners have announced their research priorities for the [2010 round of the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme](#). Details on funding partners and research priorities can be found on the [Cancer Australia website](#). Applications will open in early December.

National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program - Funding Round Four

The Department of Health and Ageing is calling for applications for funding under the [National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program - Funding Round Four](#). This program aims to improve opportunities for partnerships and multidisciplinary approaches to the delivery of health services in rural and remote communities through better access to funding for infrastructure and equipment. Applications close 29 January 2010.



CONFERENCES

Conference: [Third National Palliative Care Education Conference](#)

Date: February 11-12 2010

Location: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Conference: National Network Nursing in General Practice Forum

Date: February 17-18 2010

Location: Melbourne Victoria

Conference: [16th International Conference on Cancer Nursing](#)

Date: March 7-11 2010

Location: Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Conference: [World Congress of Internal Medicine in Conjunction with Physicians Week](#)

Date: March 20-25 2010

Location: Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Conference: [The Impact of Pain](#)

Date: March 28-31 2010

Location: Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

This is just a small selection of the conferences held on CareSearch. Details on these and other conferences in 2010 and 2011 can be found on the [Conferences page](#).

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Many new resources have been produced and released this month. You can use these resources in many different ways:

- > Put patient and family brochures in any information you give out to families
- > Suggest families may like to watch the DVDs
- > Include a copy of the GP sheet with information you send to the GP
- > Provide new staff with a CareSearch brochure and the Getting the most out of CareSearch sheets

We'd also be interested in hearing from health professionals about what other help sheets or information sheets would be useful in services and in daily practice.

You can view all the [CareSearch promotional resources](#) on the website and download an order form.

All enquiries regarding our promotional materials can be directed to Natasha Schembri via email at natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au.

February Newsletter

There will be no January newsletter as the CareSearch Office will be closed from 24 December 2009 to Monday 4 January 2010. The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Wednesday in February. If you have any item you would like to have considered for inclusion please send details one week prior to the circulation date to natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au.



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