



FROM THE WEBSITE

Evaluation activities

@CARESEARCH newsletter

As part of our 2010 evaluation activities we are reviewing the @CARESEARCH newsletter to try and determine its impact and effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. We would encourage all our readers to take a few minutes and complete the [online survey](#).

CNIN

Thank you to everyone who responded to our CNIN newsletter survey. Feedback is an important part of our quality processes, helps us modify and improve resources and can be used in our reporting requirements. We will provide a summary of the results in the next newsletter.

New Pages

Bereavement and Grief

Two new pages have been released in the Clinical Practice section that provide an overview of the evidence around bereavement, grief and complex grief. Grief, especially in the early stages, often causes disruption and disturbance of everyday life. However, grief can be expressed by people very differently.

> [Bereavement and grief](#)

> [Complex grief](#)

CareSearch Review Collection

Eight reviews were added to the [CareSearch Review Collection](#) in February 2010. They included:

> Adams E, Boulton M, Watson E. [The information needs of partners and family members of cancer patients: a systematic literature review](#). Patient Educ Couns. 2009 Nov;77(2):179-86

This review assessed the information needs of partners and/or family members of adult cancer patients. Thirty-two papers were included in the review. Eleven categories of information need were identified. There was a predominant focus on breast or prostate cancer, leaving a knowledge gap in relation to other cancers. The concept of 'information need' was generally poorly developed and theorised in the papers.

- > Lehto RH, Stein KF. [Death anxiety: an analysis of an evolving concept](#). Res Theory Nurs Pract. 2009;23(1):23-41
This article reviewed the literature on death anxiety published between 1980 and 2007. The analysis involved defining attributes, antecedents, and consequences of death anxiety as a concept. Findings for the clusters were: attributes (emotion, cognitive, experiential, developmental, sociocultural shaping, and source of motivation), antecedents (stressful environments and the experience of unpredictable circumstances, diagnosis of a life-threatening illness or the experience of a life-threatening event, and experiences with death and dying), and consequences (adaptive and maladaptive presentations).
- > Shaheen PE, Walsh D, Lasheen W, Davis MP, Lagman RL. [Opioid equianalgesic tables: are they all equally dangerous?](#) J Pain Symptom Manage. 2009 Sep;38(3):409-17.
The aim of this study was to demonstrate variations in equianalgesic ratios, as quoted in equianalgesic tables and various educational materials widely available to practicing physicians. The authors found inconsistent and variable equianalgesic ratios recommended for both opioid rotation and conversion. They concluded that equianalgesic tables should only serve as a general guideline to estimate equivalent opioid doses. Clinical judgment should be used and individual patient characteristics considered when applying any table.
- > Gan T, Wu Z, Tian L, Wang Y. [Chinese herbal medicines for induction of remission in advanced or late gastric cancer](#). Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010 Jan 20;(1):CD005096.
This review aimed to assess the effectiveness of Chinese medicinal herbs in the short term remission of advanced or late gastric cancer. Fifty-five qualified trials with 5261 advanced or late gastric cancer patients were identified. Most studies were of low quality and did not use the same intervention or outcomes. The authors concluded that there was not appropriate evidence for effectiveness of Chinese medicinal herbs in improving the quality of life or rate of remission, alleviating the toxic and side effects caused by the chemotherapy, or reducing short-term mortality.

Project Activities

Review of PubMed Topic Searches

As part of the currency and quality processes for CareSearch, a review of the search syntax for the 50+ PubMed Topic Searches is underway. The structure of the search and changes to the MeSH thesaurus that could enhance the individual searches are being examined.

Chronic Heart Failure Filter

Chronic Heart Failure is a disabling and deadly condition that directly affects more than 300,000 Australians at any one time. It is associated with

- > case-fatality rates comparable to the most common forms of cancer in both men and women
- > quality of life worse than most other common forms of chronic disease and terminal cancer
- > poor recognition of its deadly nature and impending death requiring palliative support
(National Heart Failure Guidelines, 2006)

CHRONIC HEART FAILURE IS A DISABLING AND DEADLY CONDITION THAT DIRECTLY AFFECTS MORE THAN 300,000 AUSTRALIANS AT ANY ONE TIME.

We are currently carrying out some studies to develop a filter that will enable automatic harvesting of literature relevant to chronic heart failure. Once developed, we will be able to combine the chronic heart failure filter with topics of clinical and care importance for use in the PubMed environment. This will facilitate access to the literature and evidence base to assist in guiding care for those with chronic heart failure.

Research Studies Register

One new study has been added to the [Research Studies Register](#):

- > [What are the decision-making processes that underpin the self-management of persistent pain?](#)
Dr Clare Fenwick

CNIN February 2010

The CareSearch Nurses Information Newsletter for [February 2010](#) is now available.

The February issue looks at:

- > [Clinical Uses: Complementary Therapies](#)
- > [Evidence Based Practice: Consumer involvement in health research](#)
- > [CareSearch Page Profile: CareSearch Training Modules](#)

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

RESEARCH NEWS

Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation Grants

Applications are now open for [Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation Grants](#) into serious conditions that affect children. Grants of \$75,000 will be awarded for research to be undertaken in 2011. Early Career Grants of up to \$35,000 per annum to scientists applying for the first time as Chief Investigator are also considered. Applications close on 29 April 2010.

Australia Fellowships

[Australia Fellowships](#) are awards that support the salary and research of outstanding researchers with a vision to expand the scale and scope of Australian health and medical research. Australia Fellows will be conducting innovative research at the highest international levels. Applications are now open. Expression of Interest close on 25 March 2010

2010 Dementia Grants Program

Alzheimer's Australia Research (AAR) has announced its [2010 Dementia Grants Program](#).

The following grants available include:

- > New Researcher Grants
- > Travel Grants
- > Postgraduate Scholarships

Applications close 12 April 2010.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

National Palliative Care Strategy

Communio is conducting the [National Palliative Care Strategy Review](#) for the Department of Health and Ageing. [Consultation workshops](#) will be held during March 2010. A [report of Phase 1 activities](#) including the literature review and consultation with key informants to establish a framework against which the current Strategy should be reviewed is also available.

THE NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (NHMRC) HAVE LAUNCHED A NEW NATIONAL CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES PORTAL...

Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) have launched a new national [Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal](#) that will provide links to current Australian guidelines developed by governments, professional colleges, specialty societies and non-government agencies. The Australian guidelines are important tools that ensure the most recent Australian and international research is evaluated and applied across different health care settings to enable better health outcomes to be achieved for all.

A good death

Four Corners, a program on the ABC, Australia's public broadcaster, highlighted the contribution of palliative care in a show looking at the stories of four Australians as they come to the end of their lives, and the people who cared for them in the program [A good death](#).

Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits February Update

The [Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits February Update](#) has been released. The modified release preparation of hydromorphone - Journista 4mg, has now been listed on the General Pharmaceutical Benefits listing as of February 2010. It has a restricted benefit for pain not responding to non-narcotic analgesics.

Intergenerational Report 2010

The [Intergenerational Report 2010](#) is the first of these reports by the Rudd Government. In addition to assessing the fiscal and economic challenges of an ageing population, this report also includes a comprehensive discussion on environmental challenges and social sustainability.

Victorian Bereavement Services Directory

The Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement website has added an online [Bereavement Services Directory](#) available throughout Victoria. Over time this may be extended to provide a national directory of bereavement services.

CEO position Palliative Care Australia

The [CEO position Palliative Care Australia](#) will be responsible at a national level for influencing, fostering and promoting a health care system that delivers quality care at the end of life, along with responsibility for the day to day management of Palliative Care Australia. Applications close 8 March 2010.

PCA Position statement

Palliative Care Australia has released a new position statement on [quality and safety in end-of-life care](#).

PCV appoints new Chief Executive Officer

Odette Waanders has been appointed the new Chief Executive Officer of Palliative Care Victoria.

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



CONFERENCES

There are many conferences of interest to those in the palliative care community. They include:

- Conference: The Impact of Pain
Date: March 28-31 2010
Location: Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia
- Conference: National Medicines Symposium 2010
Date: May 26-28 2010
Location: Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- Conference: 46th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology
Date: June 4-8 2010
Location: Chicago, Illinois, USA
- Conference: Centre for Death and Society Annual Conference
Date: June 9 2010
Location: Bath, England

This is just a small selection of the conferences held on CareSearch [Conference page](#).

There are also a large number of [short courses](#) listed in the Education pages.

- Title: Confident Care in Palliative Care Forum
Date: March 25 & 27 2010
Institution: Barossa General Practice Network
Location: Tanunda, South Australia
- Title: What's new in pain control in palliative care
Date: March 29 2010
Institution: ANZSPM
Location: Christchurch, New Zealand
- Title: Certificate in Palliative Care Nursing
Date: March 16, April 27, May 25, September 14, October 26 2010
Institution: Calvary Health Care Bethlehem
Location: Caulfield, Victoria

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Many services and organisations are making use of the CareSearch promotional materials and have ordered factsheets or brochures for staff, patients and for their families. Materials can also be ordered for education and training activities. 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.

April Newsletter

The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Wednesday in April. 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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