



## FROM THE WEBSITE

### New PubMed Searches

Two additional PubMed Topic Searches dealing with **dysphagia** and **quality of life** have been added. There are now over 50 topic searches saved for searchers to seamlessly run PubMed searches relevant to palliative care. These searches are an important strategy in implementing the evidence from palliative care literature searching into real world practice.

### Web Based Learning

A new module **Online Cancer Education Forum** has been added to the web based learning pages. The forum has been developed by the European Journal of Cancer Care. Twenty eight online resources relevant to palliative care have been identified. Details on these learning activities can be found at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/Education/WebBasedLearning/tabid/76/Default.aspx>

### CareSearch Review Collection

Citations for nineteen systematic reviews have been added to the CareSearch Review Collection in December. Some of the newly identified reviews are:

- > Thekkumpurath P, Venkateswaran C, Kumar M, Bennett MI. **Screening for psychological distress in palliative care: a systematic review**. J Pain Symptom Manage. 2008 Nov;36 (5):520-8 Psychological distress is common in the terminally ill. The performance of screening instruments for psychological distress is described in terms of their sensitivity, specificity, and positive and negative predictive values.
- > Wortmann JH & Park CL **Religion and spirituality in adjustment following bereavement: an integrative review** Death Stud. 2008; 32(8):703-36 The authors concluded the studies suggest that relations between religion and adjustment to bereavement are generally positive but inconsistent and vary depending in part on how religion/spirituality is measured.
- > Weschules DJ, Bain KT. **A systematic review of opioid conversion ratios used with methadone for the treatment of pain**. Pain Med. 2008 9(5):595-612 The authors concluded that there was no evidence to support the superiority of one method of rotation to methadone over another. Patients may be successfully rotated to methadone despite discrepancies between rotation ratios initially used and those associated with stabilization.

- > Bee PE, Barnes P, Luker KA. **A systematic review of informal caregivers' needs in providing home-based end-of-life care to people with cancer**. J Clin Nurs. 2008 Jul 1. The authors suggested that home-based palliative care services had not been sufficiently focussed on assisting informal caregivers acquire practical nursing skills. Informal carers looked for practically-focussed information and needed increased access to information.
- > Kangas M, Bovbjerg DH, Montgomery GH. **Cancer-related fatigue: a systematic and meta-analytic review of non-pharmacological therapies for cancer patients**. Psychol Bull. 2008 Sep;134 (5):700-41. Meta-analyses conducted on 57 RCTs indicated that exercise and psychological interventions provided reductions in cancer related fatigue. The authors concluded a number of approaches show promise in ameliorating fatigue.

Systematic reviews for ninety topics associated with palliative care are being collected on an ongoing basis. As a result, there are currently citation details for 548 systematic reviews. Information on all the systematic reviews in this collection can be found at

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/FindingEvidence/CareSearchReviewCollection/tabid/501/Default.aspx>

## FEEDBACK SURVEYS AND EVALUATION

Thank you to the many users who completed the online survey and participated in the specialist service survey. This provides us with vital information about who is using the resources and how to make the resources more useful. Feedback surveys are one of the evaluation activities being undertaken to inform future decision making and developments. Other activities include web metrics such as site visits, analyses of search queries and patterns of page usage.

We're also interested in examples of how people have used CareSearch or information from CareSearch within their services or in their clinical practice. These stories can be a powerful indication of how information and resources can make a difference. If you can provide us with an example, please email us [caresearch@flinders.edu.au](mailto:caresearch@flinders.edu.au) or ring Natasha on 08 8275 2817.

## RESEARCH NEWS

### 2009 PdCCRS grants round

Applications are currently being invited for [Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Grants](#), to commence in 2010. Researchers working in Australia are eligible to apply. Closes on March 17 2009

### Heart Foundation awards

Grants-in-Aid support biomedical, clinical or public health research relevant to heart, stroke and blood vessel disease. [Applications for project support](#) are available to investigators who have proven ability in research. Applications close 17 March 2009.

### 2010 NHMRC Grant Funds

A call for [applications for NHMRC](#) funding commencing in 2010 opened on 8 December 2008 for:

- > [Research Fellowships and Practitioner Fellowships](#) (applications close 6 February 2009)
- > [Australia Fellowships](#) (expressions of interest close on 3 March 2009)
- > [Project Grants](#) (applications close on 17 March 2009)

The [2008-2009 Funding Calendar](#) is also now available.

### International Palliative Care Family Carer Research Collaboration (IPCFRC)

The [IPCFRC](#) seeks to develop a strategic approach to palliative care research planning related to family carers of people requiring palliative care via establishing international partnerships and promoting information exchange. Researchers and clinicians interested in joining are invited to apply.

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

### PCA Position Statements

Palliative Care Australia has released a new set of position statements on:

- > [Residential Aged Care and End of Life](#)
- > [Carers and End of Life](#)
- > [Voluntary Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide](#)
- > [Advance Care Planning and End of Life](#)
- > [Primary Care and End of Life](#)

### Setting up services for carers (2nd edition)

Help the Hospices (UK) has published a second edition of its popular [guide on setting up services for carers](#) of people with life-limiting and terminal illnesses.

### Metastatic spinal cord compression

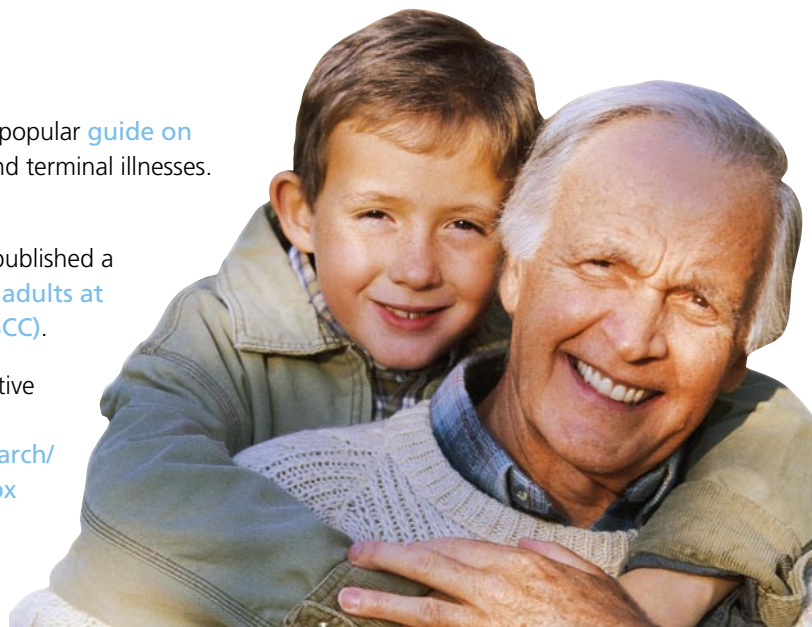
The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published a [clinical guideline on the diagnosis and management of adults at risk of and with metastatic spinal cord compression \(MSCC\)](#).

You can find out more about what is happening in the palliative care community by checking "What's New" at <http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/AboutCareSearch/News/WhatsNewintheCommunity/tabid/167/Default.aspx>

## CARESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Several articles based on the project have been published or accepted for publication recently. These have helped to show the research that underpins what is found within the website.

- > Tieman J, Sladek R, Currow D. [Changes in the quantity and level of evidence of palliative and hospice care literature: the last century](#). J Clin Oncol 2008 Dec 10;26(35):5679-83
- > Sladek RS & Tieman J 2008 [Applying evidence in the real world: a case study in library and information practice](#), Health Info Libr J 25(4): 295 -301
- > Currow DC, Agar M, Tieman J, Abernethy AP. Multi-site research allows adequately powered palliative care trials; web-based data management makes it achievable today. Palliat Med. 2008 Jan; 22(1):91-2.



## CONFERENCES

Conference: New Horizons for Breast Care Nurses  
Date: 11-13 February 2009  
Location: The Sebel & Citigate Albert Park, Melbourne

Conference: National Conference on Caring 2009  
Date: 9-10 March 2009  
Location: Gold Coast Queensland, Australia

Conference: Understanding Grief and Bereavement  
Date: 26-27 February 2009  
Location: Sacred Heart, Darlinghurst, NSW

Conference: 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Conference on Spirituality  
and Health  
Date: 13 -15 July 2009  
Location: Adelaide, Australia

Conference: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Conference: Palliative  
Care in the Community  
Date: 5 June 2009  
Location: Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital,  
Queensland

This is just a small selection of the 2009 conferences held on CareSearch. Details on these and other conferences in 2009 and 2010 can be found on the Conferences page.

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/Education/Conferences/tabid/74/Default.aspx>

## PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

We have a variety of information pieces available for the palliative care community. A bookmark has now been printed and can be ordered. It is a handy size to give to patients and members of the community.

You can view these resources on the website and download an order form.

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/AboutCareSearch/ProjectResources/PromotionalResources/tabid/433/Default.aspx>

All enquiries regarding our promotional materials can be directed to Natasha Schembri via email at [natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au](mailto:natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au)

### February Newsletter

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](mailto:natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au)



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