



FROM THE WEBSITE

Feedback 2008 Survey

The Centre for Health Service Development recently completed its analysis of the second (2008) feedback survey on CareSearch. 122 respondents completed the online survey. A further 266 respondents working within specialist palliative care services completed a postal survey.

Of those completing the online survey, almost two-thirds of respondents indicated that they had found what they were looking for and a further 20% partly found what they were looking for. The vast majority of respondents found the site easy to use (94%), credible (99%) and would recommend it to others (96%). There were a number of suggestions as to further content and ways to improve the site.

Just over 55% of respondents from the postal survey to palliative care services described themselves as either specialist palliative care nurses or registered nurses. Sixteen percent came from allied health and another 10% described themselves as palliative care medical specialists. 91% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their organisations were supportive of using new research evidence in improving care.

Almost three quarters of these respondents had heard of CareSearch. Half of those working in palliative care services used it either occasionally or regularly. The 'Clinical Practice' section was the most widely used section of the CareSearch web-site with 80% of health professionals using this section either often or occasionally. Approximately two-thirds of respondents reported using the Research Resources and Education section.

Thank you to the many people who provided feedback. This is an important part of the evaluation of CareSearch. We use this information to help improve the site and also to report back to the Department of Health and Ageing which funds the project.

We also try to share what we have learned. Some of the findings of the 2007 feedback report were recently published in an article [exploring nurses' attitudes and use of an online palliative care resource](#) in the International Journal of Palliative Nursing.

CNIN February 2009

The [CareSearch Nurses Information Newsletter](#) for February 2009 is now available. The February issue includes:

- > Clinical Uses: Fatigue
- > Evidence Based Practice: What's special about a randomised controlled trial
- > CareSearch Page Profile: Indigenous Resources

CareSearch Review Collection

Below is a selection of the 24 reviews added to the CareSearch Review Collection in February 2009:

- > Innes S, Payne S. [Advanced cancer patients' prognostic information preferences: a review](#). Palliat Med. 2009 Jan;23(1):29-39

The review team identified 13 studies addressing the issue of prognosis and open disclosure. The studies suggest that patients wanted honesty from their professional team and the vast majority wanted some broad indication of their prognosis.

- > Woods A, Willison K, Kington C, Gavin A. [Palliative care for people with severe persistent mental illness: a review of the literature](#). Can J Psychiatry. 2008 Nov;53(11):725-36.

There is little evidence about the palliative care needs of, or the nature of palliative care provided to, people with severe persistent mental illness. Methodologically sound studies that will help define the issues that exist for this vulnerable population are needed.

- > Zafar SY, Alexander SC, Weinfurt KP, Schulman KA, Abernethy AP. [Decision making and quality of life in the treatment of cancer: a review](#). Support Care Cancer. 2009 Feb;17(2):117-27

Complexity in decision making for cancer treatment arises from many factors. These differences influence how patients and physicians make treatment-related decisions. Preferences may change over time.

- > Phillips NM, Nay R. [A systematic review of nursing administration of medication via enteral tubes in adults](#). J Clin Nurs. 2008 17(17):2257-65

Nurses have the primary responsibility for giving medication through enteral tubes and need knowledge of the best available evidence. There was a lack of high-quality research on many important issues relating to giving enteral medication.

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>

CARESEARCH GREY LITERATURE

We are currently approaching universities regarding new theses relating to palliative care. If you have recently completed a Masters or PhD in the field, please send us details so that we can make sure it is included in the CareSearch Grey Literature. This database provides a wonderful resource for clinicians and researchers who have particular interests in Australian palliative care activity.

You can find out more about the CareSearch Grey Literature at <http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/FindingEvidence/CareSearchGreyLiterature/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

A Healthier Future for all Australians: Interim Report of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission

[The Interim Report of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission \(NHHC\) has been released.](#) The report proposes 116 reform directions across the spectrum of health service delivery from a healthy start to life to end of life care – covering a range of issues including governance of the health system, primary health care, prevention, Indigenous health, hospitals, aged care, workforce, mental health, and rural health.

Advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and treatment

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued a new [guideline on best practice for the diagnosis and treatment of advanced breast cancer.](#)

ANZSPM National Forums

[A series of forums](#) for medical practitioners will be held throughout April and May. For more information, or to register, go to the ANZSPM website.

Cancer Consumer Resources

To acknowledge World Cancer Day [Cancer Australia launched four consumer publications.](#) Two of these newly produced consumer resources, the Cancer support groups: A guide to setting up peer facilitated supports and Cancer support groups: A guide for peer facilitators have been designed to help organisations establish and maintain quality support groups for people living with cancer.

Gastrointestinal symptoms in supportive and palliative care - Annual Evidence Update

The Supportive and Palliative Care Specialist Library of the National Library for Health has released its [Annual Evidence Update \(AEU\) on gastrointestinal symptoms in supportive and palliative care.](#) AEU's are designed to provide an overview of new research and evidence published in a particular area over the preceding 12 months

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>

RESEARCH NEWS

General Practice research grant opportunities

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is committed to supporting new and emerging general practitioner researchers to conduct research into primary health care and general practice. In 2009, up to 12 [research grants are available to RACGP member general practitioners or general practice registrars through the RACGP Research Foundation.](#) Applications will close on 15 April 2009

Fellowship Call for Applications

The Heart Foundation is offering funding to support researchers working in the area of cardiovascular disease and related disorders. [A call for applications for fellowships](#) to commence in 2010 has been made. Closing date 14 April 2009.

A FEW STATISTICS ABOUT CARESEARCH

- > Over 600 content pages
- > Around 20,000 visits each month and over 150,000 page views each month
- > Currently 134 active surveys on the Research Data Management System.
- > 1,542 registered newsletter recipients
- > 3,593 items in the CareSearch Grey Literature Database

These are just some of the indicators relating to the use of the CareSearch website.



CONFERENCES

Conference: OT in the NT: Diverse, Challenging, Unique

Date: May 22 2009

Location: Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia

Conference: 2009 ASCO Annual Meeting

Date: May 29- June 2 2009

Location: Orlando, Florida, USA

Conference: 8th Annual Research Conference: Palliative Care in the Community

Date: June 5 2009

Location: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Conference: 2009 MND National Conference

Date: June 23 2009

Location: Sydney, NSW, Australia

Conference: UWS Dementia Conference 2009

Date: July 20 2009

Location: Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

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

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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