

CareSearch eNews August 2004

From the Website

The literature databases held within the CareSearch website provide access to much of Australia's palliative care development and research. These are searchable databases so visitors can select by type of resource (e.g. conference abstract), by author or by text word.

Our website administrator, Harshini Carey, has developed a series of helpful hints to enable more efficient searching of these literature databases. We will be featuring a helpful hint each month but you can also request a copy of the full set of Helpful Hints to be emailed to you.

This month we have added the Multisite Research Platform to the CareSearch website. This is a very powerful research facility with a number of features that support research activities at a number of different levels. Some of the features include:

- Ability to design surveys and other data collection forms on-line
- On-line data entry into forms that match the paper based version
- Entry from multiple sites can be held within a single data repository and managed by a single co-ordinating site
- Capacity to run email surveys and web-based surveys
- In-built data reporting tool including frequencies and graphs

- Data validation tools
- Ability to export data to SPSS, Excel, Access and other databases and statistical packages

We have completed a small trial with a Complementary Care group interested in developing quality assurance information. The Multisite Research Platform is also being used as part of a multisite international clinical trial.

The earlier version of this platform was used to prepare the CareSearch Feedback survey and the Needs Assessment survey for the Knowledge Network. Both these surveys can be seen on the CareSearch website. We also hope to put onto CareSearch in the near future some sample palliative surveys and results so that visitors to the site can see how the research platform could be used.

The Multisite Research Platform is a resource that has many applications within the palliative care setting and will support action-based research, quality studies, student topics as well as larger clinical investigations.

We will be highlighting various features of this research tool over the coming months in this newsletter. If you feel that the research platform may be useful for a study in which you are involved please contact Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au

Feedback Survey

We are keen to find out how visitors found out about CareSearch and whether they find it useful. We will also be using this information to report back to the Department of Health and Ageing about this project.

So take one minute and complete the [Feedback Survey](#) and help us improve the website.

Hot Picks

Two Hot Picks are available for review this month. These are important articles and excellent reviews. Well worth looking at.

Dr Amy Abernethy reviews:

Lee PE, Gill SS, Freedman M, Bronskill SE, Hillmer MP, and Rochon PA. Atypical antipsychotic drugs in the treatment of behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia: systematic review

Dr Odette Spruyt reviews:

Sara Booth, Heather Anderson, Maelie Swannick, Rosemary Wade, Suzanne Kite, Miriam Johnson. The use of oxygen in the palliation of breathlessness. A report of the expert working group of the scientific committee of the association of palliative medicine

The reviews can be found at

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/minigen/default.asp?contentID=65>

Helpful Hints for Searching the Literature Databases

Understanding Boolean Logic

The website enables you to use three Boolean logic terms:

EXACT MATCH: If you select Exact Match it will match the exact phrase you type into the 'Keywords or Phrases' textbox. For example, if you search for "Stomach Pain in the title –

then it would only match the phrase "Stomach Pain". It will match this phrase anywhere in the title, so it will find an item with the title "Stomach Pain" as well as an item with the title "Treating stomach pain in palliative care patients".

AND: Using "Stomach Pain" again as the example, if you select "AND", then the search will match any item where the words "Stomach" and "Pain" appear in the title. It will match them regardless of their order proximity to each other. So it would match "Stomach Pain" and also "Pain in the Stomach".

OR: If you selected "OR" for the same search, then the search will match any item where the word "Stomach" or "Pain" appears in the title. So again it will match "Stomach Pain" and "Pain in the stomach" but it will also match "Stomach discomfort" and "Pain in the neck".

If you would like a copy of the full list of Helpful Hints for Searching the Literature Database, email Harshini for a copy at

Harshini.Carey@rgh.sa.gov.au

Knowledge Network

The CareSearch website holds the latest information on this project. You can read some of the background papers and find out details about the [Knowledge Network tour dates](#).

Everyone involved with palliative care is invited to complete a needs assessment survey to help inform the contents of a Knowledge Network in palliative care in Australia. To take the survey now, click below, but hurry the survey closes on Sunday 5th September.

<http://www.mortonblacketer.com.au/SurveyASP/takeSurvey.asp?surveyID=7>

Those wanting more information on the project or who are interested in submitting comments can email Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au

Resources Focus: Palliative care and Aged Care

With the release of the national guidelines on providing palliative care in residential aged care facilities developed by the project team led by Professor Linda Kristjanson, it seems appropriate to highlight some of the recently developed materials relating to palliative care for older people.

Guidelines for a Palliative Approach in Residential Aged Care can be found at

<http://www.palliativecare.gov.au/pubs/workforce/pallguide.htm>

Better palliative care for older people, which can be found at

<http://www.euro.who.int/document/E82933.pdf>

A Guide to end of life care for seniors available at

<http://rgp.openflows.org/PDFfiles/eol-english.pdf>

Draft Residential Aged Care Pain Management Guidelines have been produced by the Australian Pain Society and can be found at

<http://www.apsoc.org.au/pdfs/Draft1APSRACPMG.pdf>

Oliver DP, Porock D & Zweig S End of Life Care in U.S. nursing homes: a review of the evidence *J Am Med Dir Assoc.* 2004 5(3): 147-155

Prof Ladislav Volicer who has done extensive work in the area of palliative care for patients with dementia will be visiting Australia later this year and will

be speaking in several states. Watch your local press.

Coming Events and Courses

Palliative Care Association of NSW
Across the Spectrum in Palliative Care Sydney 4th and 5th November 2004.

Details on this conference can be found at:

www.palliativecarensw.org.au

Australian Assoc. Of Gerontology, Hunter Chapter

End stage Dementia: Care, Management and Palliation

Newcastle 24th November 2004

For further information, Ph: 4985 5720

International Institute of Palliative and Supportive Studies

Palliative Care relating to Urban Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders

21 October 2004, Adelaide

For more details, phone: 8275 1672

The Centre for Ageing Studies (CAS) and the Department of Palliative and Supportive Services (DPSS), Adelaide, have developed a fully web-based, post-graduate education program in the complementary areas of Applied Gerontology and Palliative Care.

Two courses are available:

1. Graduate Certificate (Palliative Care in Aged Care)
2. Graduate Diploma (Palliative Care in Aged Care)

Scholarships are available for study during 2005. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are particularly encouraged to apply. Enquiries: (08) 8275 1603

If you are offering educational programs in palliative care or hosting conferences on palliative care and wish them to be included in this

newsletter, please forward details to
Jennifer.Tieman@rgh.sa.gov.au

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