

CareSearch eNews

January 2006

Welcome to the New Year From the CareSearch website

New pages have been added to the website including:

- Advance care planning
- What's new on the website
- What's new in the palliative community
- Accessibility help
- Viewing PDFs
- FAQ page to assist with searching the Literature Databases

The tables of contents for the Social Networks newsletters have been added to the non-indexed journals page at

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/LiteratureDatabase/Nonindexedjournals/tabid/136/Default.aspx>

Advance care planning

Dr Chris Sanderson, the CareSearch Research Fellow, has produced the advance care planning pages. These pages highlight some of the issues for patients and for care providers in planning for end of life care and decision-making. The pages also highlight differences in the legislative framework across Australia. The advance care planning page is available at

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Patientcare/Clinicalissues/Advancecareplanning/tabid/285/Default.aspx>

HON code accreditation

The website has been accredited by the Health on the Net Foundation as being in compliance with the HONcode. This code is built on eight principles that aim to improve the quality of the medical and health information online. Details on the Health on the Net Foundation can be found at <http://www.hon.ch/>

Ideas for new PubMed searches and patient care pages

We have had the following topics for PubMed searches suggested:

- Cost effectiveness for palliative care
- Cultural safety

- Outcomes measures
- Consumer participation
- Family caregivers
- Carers
- Volunteering
- Complementary therapies

We have also received some suggestions for new clinical issues and patient care pages.

Current ideas include

- Self care
- Health promoting palliative care
- Culturally appropriate palliative care
- Standards and quality in palliative care
- Consumer participation on the delivery, management and planning of palliative care

We'd welcome other ideas about webpages, so let us know what you would find useful.

Hot Picks

Dr Amy Abernethy has provided a very interesting review of a study dealing with the efficacy of lidocaine in the treatment of pruritis in patients with chronic cholestatic liver diseases. This review can be found in the resources section of the website at

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Resources/HotPicks/tabid/104/Default.aspx>

From the Web

'Journeys - Palliative Care for Children and Teenagers' is a new resource guide for families. The publication was put together by Sara Fleming who has been working with national reference groups and a small team at Palliative Care Australia. The guide includes 13 tools that may be helpful to healthcare providers. You can download the guide or register for a hardcopy at

<http://www.pallcare.org.au/Default.aspx?tabid=314>

Three new publications are available on the Department of Health and Ageing website. They are

- Kristjanson, L *Scoping the needs of individuals living alone for palliative care*
- Health Outcomes International, *Evaluation of the respite for carers of people with a life-limiting illness program*
- *Activity Implementation Report* to inform national and jurisdictional progress under the goals of the National Palliative Care Strategy.

These reports are available at the website at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/palliativecare-publicat.htm>

News and events

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Tony Abbott has announced that two new medical specialities, pain and palliative medicine have been recognised. This means that 228 doctors already trained in palliative medicine will be automatically recognised as specialists by the end of the year. Full details of his media release can be found at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2005-ta-abb164.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2005&mth=12>

The next World Hospice and Palliative Care Day will take place on Saturday the 7th October 2006. The theme this year is **Access to Care for all** – highlighting that millions of people around the world who desperately need care at the end of life aren't getting it. Further information can be found at www.worldday.org

The Commonwealth Government is subsidising several new medicines through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for terminally ill people. At the beginning of December 2005, 55 new branded products were added to the PBS. While some of these drugs were already obtainable for some uses, they are now available for palliative care patients. A summary of changes to the *Schedule* from 1 December 2005 can be found at <http://www1.health.gov.au/pbs/contents/changes.htm> For full details of brand names, forms, strengths and conditions of use, consult the Palliative Care section (designated by the mauve pages) of the *Schedule* at <http://www1.health.gov.au/pbs/scripts/listther.cfm?sched=PA>

The National Health and Medical Research Council has announced that information on how to apply for Research Grants, including Project and Program Grants, CCREs, Development Grants, Enabling Grants and Strategic Awards commencing in 2007 is now available on the NHMRC website at:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/apply/index.htm>

Dates have been confirmed for National Palliative Care Awareness Week 2006. This week will be held from Sunday 21 May to Saturday 27 May 2006. Contact state palliative care offices for activities. PCA has also established a webpage on the week at <http://www.pallcare.org.au/Default.aspx?tabid=480>

Conference dates 2006

NICS' Using evidence: Using guidelines Symposium will be held in Melbourne on 19 & 20 October 2006. To receive regular updates on the symposium, including details of keynote speakers, call for abstracts announcements, early bird specials and more, register your interest at:

<http://www.meetings.com.au/survey/fillsurvey.php?sid=14>

For details on these and other conferences visit the conference page at <http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Educationtraining/Conferences/tabid/105/Default.aspx>

Education/training items

As you will see from the Short course and conference webpage, there are many opportunities to maintain and develop skills. We are very happy to have education and training providers forward their material to us for posting on the website. We do review the details sent in to make sure they are relevant to our audience. So, please send us details on any education and training activities that you have organised for 2006. This is free promotion for your activity and helps the community stay in touch. Email items to: Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au

The CareSearch website and the Evidence Based project are supported by a grant from the Department of Health and Ageing.