

CARESEARCH E-NEWS SEPTEMBER 2007

What's new on the website

Finding your way around CareSearch

We have rewritten this page in CareSearch and have added it to the Quick Links section on the home page. In talking with users at the PCA conference, we found out that some of you would find a guide to getting around CareSearch helpful. You can have a look at this page at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Home/Understandingcaresearch/tabid/664/Default.aspx>

Conference presentation and posters

We have added two new posters to our resources: Ten things about CareSearch and A to Z of CareSearch. There are now a number of fact sheets and promotional items that can be made available to your staff, patients and their families and other care providers. You can also ask us to post you printed copies of these materials. You can see the resources online at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Home/ARCHIVEFILE/Knowledgenetwork/PromotingCareSearch/tabid/687/Default.aspx>

Dr Chris Sanderson gave a presentation at the conference called *Development of online information to support palliative care delivery by general practitioners – issues and opportunities*. We've had a number of requests for the slides so you can see this presentation at:

http://www.caresearch.com.au/Home/Portals/CareSearch/Conferences/Final_GP_talk_PCA07.pdf

PCA Conference abstracts

The PCA Conference organisers included a permission request for inclusion in CareSearch to their abstract process which means that we will be able to upload the abstracts into CareSearch very quickly. This means those who couldn't get to the conference will be able to find out what's happening in research and clinical practice. We would like to invite presenters and authors to provide us with an electronic version of their poster or their slides along with a permission to include this material in CareSearch. This means that we can link to the poster or PowerPoint from the abstract.

Using the website

One of the most useful things for us in Melbourne at the Palliative Care Australia conference was having the opportunity to talk to so many members of the palliative care community. This really helped us understand your information and evidence needs and the issues you have in finding and managing information. We also wanted to thank all the people who completed one of the ideas and information forms at the conference. Congratulations to Sue who won the raffle. We hope she enjoyed the chocolates.

We were delighted to find out that so many people know about and use CareSearch. It was also good for us to learn where the problems are in working with the website. There are several suggestions that we can share with you to make using the website more efficient.

1. Looking for a page or topic can be difficult. One option when you're not sure where to find something is in the website is to use the site map or the content index. The site map provides a layout of how the topics are organised in their various sections. The content index is an alphabetic listing of topics. For both the site map and the content issue, you can click on the topic of interest and it will take you directly to that page. You can find the

site map at <http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Default.aspx?tabid=123>. There is also a link to the site map in the green bar at the bottom of every CareSearch page. You can find the contents index at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Home/Understandingcaresearch/Contentindex/tabid/665/Default.aspx>

2. There are a couple of tricks that can help you find your way around. At the top of CareSearch pages you'll find a series of words laid out like this **topic»topic»topic**. For example if you go to the How to Help page at: <http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/tabid/566/Default.aspx> you'll see the following Patients & Carers » Families and Friends » How to help. This tells you that the How to Help page is in the Friends and Families group of pages within the Patient and Carer section. It shows you the sequence of pages that have brought you to this page. This means that you can retrace your steps to any of the preceding pages by clicking on them. The left hand side bar menu shows you all the related pages in that section. The main sections of the website are found in the nine tabs in the green bar at the top of the page. The green bar always stays the same but the side bar menu varies according to which section you are in. Clicking on the tab at the top will take you to the new section
3. The website currently has 23 specially written searches that you can choose from which will then run the search within the National Libraries of Medicine. This means you can find out about specific topics really quickly. However, sometimes you want to find out something that isn't on the list. If you're only interested in that topic as it relates to palliative care you can use the palliative care filter and then add your particular topic. To do this, go to the PubMed version of the palliative care filter at: <http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Evidencebasedpractice/Searchstrategies/Validatedpalliativecaresearchstrategies/PubMed/tabid/661/Default.aspx>. Now, click on the Run Now version of the filter. This will take you to the PubMed page and load the filter. In the search box at the top of the page tab across to the last bracket of the filter, then type in AND. Now add the topic word you are interested in and click the GO button. It will automatically go and select a series of references.
4. There's nothing more frustrating than finding a useful page or website and then not remembering how to find it again. If you want to save a webpage for later use, add it to your **Favorites**. If you haven't set up a Favorites file, point to **Toolbars** on the **View** menu, and then click **Web**. On the **Web** toolbar, click **Favorites**, and then click **Add to Favorites**. Click **Add** and the page will be added. Then all you need to do is click on that the next time you want to visit and it will take you there immediately.

Website Usage

After some record months of visitation, visitor numbers have eased back to the mid and high 20,000s. Another aspect of website usage is the breadth of resources being accessed. In August over 360 individual content pages were viewed. The ten most popular pages were as follows

Home page	Aged care facilities
Research Data Management System	Short courses
Search the literature database	Conferences
Talking to children about death	Palliative care for GPs
Current forums	Care providers

Helping us evaluate CareSearch

Over the next month we're planning to start collecting formal feedback on the CareSearch website. We'll be looking at feedback from users of the website and also from people working in palliative care services. This helps us plan new content, promote the website and look at how to make the website work better. We'd like to ask everyone who visits the website to complete the online survey and to encourage anyone who is asked to participate from a palliative care service to fill out the survey and post it back. Both surveys will only take a few minutes of your time but can make a big difference to the website.

What's new in the palliative care community?

It's been a busy period in palliative care. There are a number of initiatives and projects being reported. These include

PBS listing

PBS Website has been developed to improve accessibility to the medicines listed for palliative care indication. Prescribers can search by drug name, body system or browse the listing of items. Palliative medicines are easily identified with a mauve P icon. The Palliative Care listings in the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits add to the total number of medicines available for palliative care patients in the community setting. More information about improving community access to Palliative Care Medicines is available in fact sheets and related links. Details at http://www.pbs.gov.au/html/healthpro/news/article?id=NEWS-2007-08-28-Palliative_care.xml

PaCCSC launch

Senator Mason officially launched PaCCSC, a program of clinical trials of palliative care drugs, on 29 August 2007. Full details can be found in the media release at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr07-bm-mas039.htm>

National Rural Palliative Care Program grant

More than \$6 million has been made available by the federal government to expand the Rural Palliative Care Project from 2007 to 2010. Full details can be found in the media release at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr07-bm-mas039.htm>

PCA Connect

PCA has launched an initiative to encourage registration of interest for newsletters and information updates. You can find out more at <http://pallcare.gky.com.au/c/pc?a=apps&ap=pd>

Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research

This code guides institutions and researchers in responsible research practices and promotes integrity in research for researchers. It has been jointly issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Research Council and Universities Australia. Details at http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/_files/r39.pdf

Enhancing palliation in patients with advanced cancer in rural areas of Australia

This short course was developed by the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) to provide primary care practitioners, especially those in rural and remote Australia, with up-to-date information on the use of palliative cancer treatments. This Short Course is accredited for ACRRM PD points and as an Active Learning Module for RACGP Category 1 points. Full details are available at <http://www.moga.org.au/mogacancerpal/index.asp>

Conferences

National Research Ethics Conference

17-18 October 2007, Melbourne. The Conference seeks to promote debate about the ethical dimensions of human research. <http://www.communicationlink.com.au/ethics/main.aspx>

Inaugural International Palliative Care Conference

September 24-28 2009 Perth, Western Australia, Australia

Details on these and many other palliative care conferences can be found in the Conferences page at <http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Education/Conferences/tabid/105/Default.aspx>

Special focus... online approaches to search and information retrieval

The ability to find information and evidence that meets your needs as a clinician, educator or researcher is vital. People have particular needs and styles when they look for information. There is a growing set of resources that may be helpful in the palliative care area:

NeLH Palliative and Supportive Care Specialist Library: This is part of the UK's NHS health initiatives. This specialist library aims to provide convenient and comprehensive access to the best available evidence in all aspects of palliative and supportive care. It divides its resources into a number of major areas such as conditions, symptoms or populations and settings. The results are categorised according to type of resource, i.e., guidance and pathways, evidence, reference, education/CPD or patient information. A comprehensive resource but requires getting used to.

BMJ Clinical evidence: One of the world's most recognised medical resources for informing treatment decisions and improving patient care. It has recently created a section on supportive and palliative care. Although it only has three systematic reviews listed currently, the resources are likely to grow quickly.

St Basillisa's: This website focuses on search in PubMed as the mechanism for information retrieval and updating. It offers a series of brokered searches within PubMed for individual palliative care journals, groups of journals or all of PubMed. You can choose whether you want articles from the last, 30 days, 60 days or 90 days. You need to read the information on the search to know what is being included in the searches.

Shaare Zedek Cancer Pain and Palliative Medicine Reference Database: This is a searchable database of over 30,000 references related to Cancer Pain and Palliative Care. It began as a personal endnote database. It provides bibliographic references but requires you to find the item.

If you would like to provide feedback on this newsletter or make a contribution to the next edition, please contact Natasha.Schembri@flinders.edu.au