

Project Update February 2008

State of development

Development of the new website is well underway and on schedule for release in the middle of the year. Webpages being entered into the new site include material that is being transferred from the current website and new material being written specifically for the new website. Over 30% of the existing pages have been transferred and reformatted for the new website. Forty two new pages have been written to date and circulated for comment and review.

There are many elements that must come together when building a website. Some of these relate to the physical layout of the site and design of the basic pages. Others relate to how the information content is structured so that there is a logic to the relationship between pages and sections so that users can easily find the information and orient themselves to other information in the site. User testing is an important process in examining and enhancing both the logic and visual systems.

We have completed a user testing series with nurses and some volunteers on the design and navigation for the new website. A second series of user testing with medical students is planned for late February. This process enables us to make iterative improvements to the layout and design based on feedback from users interacting with the actual site as it is developing.

Identifying, retrieving and updating information content

One of the challenges that confront health providers is ensuring they have processes to continuously update their knowledge base as new evidence and practices emerge. This is made more difficult in palliative care as there are many possible sources of change relating to the many disciplines involved in providing care and the diverse needs of individual patients.

Similar challenges confront the website. There is a vast potential literature that could be of use to health professionals providing palliative care but this sits in a much larger set of material. To assist us in retrieving relevant material we have created a palliative care filter that can be applied in various bibliographic datasets. This is essentially a string of search terms with high specificity that extract palliative relevant content. This can be combined with particular topics such as a symptom, disease or therapeutic activity. In the last twelve months we have continued refining the basic search to use within the website. The search filter is being used to help content writers identify relevant literature, to support topic based searches similar to those in the existing website, and to develop an automated series of alerts to assist in maintaining the currency of the webpages over time as new information is released.

Planning for the launch and subsequent promotion

We have started holding discussions about the launch of the website and the associated promotional and dissemination activities. The launch will signal the “switching on” of the new site and the start of dissemination activities. A program of presentations at conferences and meeting is planned to promote the site and to highlight specific resources and functions within the website.

We are also undertaking the design and preparation of a suite of new promotional materials to help get the message to potential users of the website and its resources.

Developing content

Content development involves a number of different processes. The first of these is the retrieval of relevant evidence and literature. Given the size of the literature, content pages in the clinical area focus on the status of the evidence as found in systematic reviews relevant to the individual topic. A systematic review is a review of studies and research where there have been methodical approaches to finding all relevant information, an evaluation or appraisal of these primary sources and a form of synthesis of the findings undertaken. They are a useful summary and examination of the work to date.

Pages that have been developed for the new site are sent for internal comment to practitioners in the field and to those involved with the specific area. Members of the Management Group and the National Advisory Group have also been involved in commenting on particular pages. We are also fortunate to have a number of people who have volunteered to assist in this work and we have also directly sought assistance from other practitioners for particular topics. The Writing Team is meeting in early March to review comments and correct and modify pages as needed. These revised pages will then be sent to a topic expert for a final review prior to inclusion.

The Writing Team comprises members of the Project Team including a palliative physician, palliative nurse, social worker and two researchers. There are also several outside writers working in paediatric, geriatric and allied health fields.

Those helping with the project

We do truly appreciate the time and expertise volunteered by those commenting on pages in helping to develop the content. Many have volunteered. The value of these comments relates to an assessment not only of the content but also its relevance to practice and its presentation.

Newsletter Investigation

One of the last tasks we are looking at as a project team is the type of communications that website users would find useful. We are looking at conducting a small survey of current readers of this newsletter and the companion newsletter, CareSearch eNews, to determine the format, frequency and content for the new newsletter. You may be contacted by the Project Team for feedback over the next 4 weeks. If you have any comments about newsletter, we would love to hear from you. We want to make sure that what is produced is worthwhile and meets the needs of the users of the resources and our website visitors.

Please send any comments to Natasha.Schembri@flinders.edu.au. You can also contact Natasha if you wish to order any current promotional items such as factsheets or bookmarks.

Order Form

We have a variety of information sheets, flyers and bookmarks available for the palliative care community. Let us know what items you need.

Item	Quantity
GP Information (A4 Fact Sheet)	
GP Information (Bookmark)	
Patient, Carer, Families and Friends Information(A4 Fact Sheet)	
Nurses Information (A4 Fact Sheet)	
Allied Health Information (A4 Fact Sheet)	
Aged Care Workers Information (A4 Fact Sheet)	
CareSearch – Generic information (A4 Fact Sheet)	
Six Ways CareSearch can help Carers – Magnetic Flyer	
How CareSearch can help Nurses – Magnetic Flyer	
CareSearch Generic information - Flyer	
Using CareSearch more effectively – A guide for Nurses	

Personal Details (for postage)

Name:

Address:

Contact Number:

Send form to the following:

CareSearch
C/- Daw House
700 Goodwood Road
Daw Park SA 5041

Or

Fax: (08) 8275 1343

Or

Email: caresearch@flinders.edu.au