

Knowledge Network in Palliative Care

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About the name

One of the key elements in the design phase for the new network has been the issue of the name and its relationship to the existing CareSearch name and website. It was seen as important that any new logo designs embrace the essence of the project and the outcomes it provides to users. It needed to suitably serve the broad demographic of health professionals and community users as well as being practical enough to suit all current and future applications.

Genki and Reward Design came up with a series of options for discussion with arguments for and against changing or retaining the current name. The final choice was made by the Management Group who felt that the existing name had a substantial and growing presence in the field and was therefore a strong place to start. The agreement was that we should build on this. So in May 2008, CareSearch will become CareSearch *palliative care knowledge network*.

So what happens next?

With the name decided upon the designers are starting to create the look and feel of the website visually and to work with the project team in developing standard templates and layouts for pages. They are also developing the logo and colour palette. This work will lead to a website design which is visually appealing and functional for our broad range of target users. Once the web templates have been completed by the designers and handed over to our IT partners, Morton Blacketer, print materials will be designed and put into production.

As we continue to develop the graphic design we will be working on developing new page content and on modifying existing pages for incorporation into the new website. We have just finished a two day production workshop where the writing team looked at quality processes and documentation needs for the pages.

IT developments and improvements

An upgrade of the version of the Research Data Management System is nearing completion. This will provide more powerful applications and the capacity for further expansion of this vital infrastructure. A series of other IT enhancements are in progress including:

- Implementing a function to search the CareSearch literature databases by assigned keyword.
- Identifying and preparing for transfer of existing content and functions to the new website
- Developing an integrated user management system to enable a single log-in for all applications

- Developing a database capacity to enable online registration and management of contacts for newsletters, promotional dissemination and evidence updates
- Enhancing the data file options to enable more varied formats such as video streaming
- Implementing a module to enable “child” websites within the Knowledge Network framework
- Establishing a mechanism to track search terms used with the CareSearch website. This will mirror the capacity to track search terms that bring users to the website, i.e., referred through search engines such as Google.
- Establishing a framework for accessibility compliance according to international standards

A “play website” has been created to enable the project team to test some navigation and design issues for the new website.

KNMG/NAG Meetings

The Knowledge Network Management Group and the National Advisory Group have been involved in various meetings over the last two months to resolve the name and logo issues and to advise on the quality processes relating to the development of content for the website.

These two groups provide a vital resource for the project as they represent many of the constituencies that are involved in providing palliative care or those who are affected by palliative care. As well as bringing individual skills and expertise, they function as a link or conduit to these groups and constituencies. This enables us to effectively target activities, focus content to needs and consider specific elements and concerns.

Memberships of the Knowledge Network Management Group and the National Advisory Group can be found on the CareSearch website at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Nationalprogram/Knowledgenetwork/NationalAdvisoryGroup/tabid/682/Default.aspx>

Behind the scenes

One of the important elements for the website and its content is the capacity to access relevant literature and research evidence. We have been developing a series of strategies to support this need. Firstly we have been looking at developing a validated search filter to identify palliative care literature in the general and specialist biomedical literature. Two articles on how the filter was developed have been published and are available to read at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Nationalprogram/Knowledgenetwork/Knowledgenetworkpresentationsandpublications/tabid/686/Default.aspx>

We have used this research to create a series of real time topic searches in the current website that can be run in PubMed. You can see this at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Findingevidence/Searchstrategies/PubMedPalliativecaresearches/tabid/458/Default.aspx>

This will also form the basis for a more comprehensive set of searches in the new website that will more sympathetically support the needs of different users of the website. We would be very interested in hearing from palliative care clinicians about additional

topics for which an expert search would be useful. You can send us your thoughts at caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

We have also developed a standard search approach to support the development of new content pages for the new website. This provides a structured approach to identifying the relevant evidence for the topic.

Search relates not only to published literature but to the identification of quality resources on the internet which can be included as links within the website. There has been a rapid increase in the amount of material held and published on the web in the last twenty years. Clines and Haynes (2001) suggest that there are more than 70 000 websites providing health information and that over half of Internet users had sought health information on the web. A mechanism to assess the quality of internet resources is therefore an important consideration. We have developed an in-house tool to use for internet sites that are not HONcode or Health Insite accredited.

Dissemination activities

We are continuing to promote the existing website and resources while we create the new site. We are going to the PCA conference in Melbourne and will have materials and resources available there. Dr Chris Sanderson will be presenting a session on the development of the online resources for GPs.

We will be attending the COSA conference in Adelaide and distributing information on the project and the website.

There are several new resources in the Promoting CareSearch page at:

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

These include

- An A – Z of CareSearch
- Ten things about CareSearch
- CareSearch - Online palliative care resources and information

You can help us spread the word by making sure the people you work with know about CareSearch. You might also like to download a flyer or poster for your staffroom. You can also email us for factsheets and bookmarks or make a comment or suggestion at caresearch@flinders.edu.au