



## FROM THE WEBSITE

### CareSearch has moved!

The CareSearch Office has moved to the Flinders University Health Sciences Building, Repatriation General Hospital. Our new office contact details are as follows:

- > General Enquiries: (08) 7221 8233
- > Marketing Enquiries: (08) 7221 8227
- > Website Enquiries: (08) 7221 8225
- > Facsimile: (08) 7221 8238
- > Email: [caresearch@flinders.edu.au](mailto:caresearch@flinders.edu.au)

The postal address is:

Flinders University  
Palliative and Supportive Services  
GPO Box 2100  
Adelaide SA 5001

### Updating Clinical Practice pages

As part of the quality processes within CareSearch, Clinical Practice pages are formally reviewed every two years to ensure that the information summarised in the pages reflects the most up to date evidence described in systematic reviews of the topic. Two sets of Clinical Practice pages have been recently reviewed and updated. They are:

- > **Breathing:** Breathing problems are a significant issue for many palliative care patients and occur with increasing frequency in the terminal stage of most palliative conditions. This set of pages also includes: **Cough, Dyspnoea, Haemoptysis, Obstruction** and **Respiratory Secretions**.
- > **Constipation:** This pages deals with a common problem in the palliative care population and provides information on **Laxatives** as well.

### CareSearch Review Collection

Twenty eight systematic reviews were added to the CareSearch Review Collection in June 2010.

- > Hopp FP, Thornton N, Martin L. **The lived experience of heart failure at the end of life: a systematic literature review**. Health Soc Work. 2010 May;35(2):109-17  
Results suggest that people with heart failure face many challenges, including those associated with the formal health care system, life disruption, social isolation, symptoms, and uncertainty about prognosis and symptoms.

- > Currier JM, Holland JM, Neimeyer RA. **Do CBT-based interventions alleviate distress following bereavement? a review of the current evidence**. International Journal of Cognitive Therapy. 2010;3(1):77-93.  
The present review summarises the existing empirical literature on CBT-based interventions for bereaved persons and the extent to which these therapies alleviated distress compared to non-CBT approaches and no-treatment control groups.
- > Fine E, Reid MC, Shengelia R, Adelman RD. **Directly observed patient-physician discussions in palliative and end-of-life care: a systematic review of the literature**. J Palliat Med. 2010 May;13(5):595-603.  
The purpose of this review was to assess studies that used direct observation (i.e., videotaping or audiotaping) methods in palliative/end-of-life care communication research. It showed that direct observation methods can be feasibly used.
- > Ly J, O'Grady G, Mittal A, Plank L, Windsor JA. **A systematic review of methods to palliate malignant gastric outlet obstruction**. Surg Endosc. 2010 Feb;24(2):290-7.  
The authors reported improved clinical outcomes with endoscopic stenting over open gastrojejunostomy for patients with malignant gastric outlet obstruction. The authors noted that conclusions were based on observational studies only.
- > Ettema EJ, Derksen LD, van Leeuwen E. **Existential loneliness and end-of-life care: a systematic review**. Theor Med Bioeth. 2010 Apr;31(2):141-69.  
The authors found that existential loneliness as a concept is profoundly unclear. They suggested three dimensions of EL - as a condition, as an experience, and as a process of inner growth - could lead to some conceptual clarification.
- > Mayyas F, Fayers P, Kaasa S, Dale O. **A systematic review of oxymorphone in the management of chronic pain**. J Pain Symptom Manage. 2010 Feb;39(2):296-308  
The aim of this review was to assess the effectiveness of oxymorphone as an analgesic in chronic pain. The authors found that limited evidence suggests that oxymorphone is effective for pain control in patients with cancer. Oxymorphone was superior to placebo. There is no evidence that the efficacy of oxymorphone differs from other opioids.

### CNIN June 2010

The [CareSearch Nurses Information Newsletter for June 2010](#) is now available. This month's issue includes:

- > [Clinical Uses: Audit](#)
- > [Evidence Based Practice: Where do I look? The role of bibliographic databases](#)
- > [CareSearch Page Profile: Finding out more](#)

Previous newsletters and all the CNIN topic sheets can be found on the [CNIN page](#).

## MOST RESPONDENTS FELT THE NEWSLETTER INCREASED THEIR KNOWLEDGE (88%)...

### New Project pages

*COP D1 Study: Evaluating a Community of Practice (COP) as a strategy to support best practice for people with dementia for whom palliative care is appropriate.*

The [COP D1 project](#) is looking at a palliative approach for people with dementia at the end of life by using a local Community of Practice (COP) to achieve best practice. For further information contact Jan Akers project manager: [J.Akers@curtin.edu.au](mailto:J.Akers@curtin.edu.au)

### @CARESEARCH SURVEY FEEDBACK

The first @CARESEARCH newsletter was released in May 2008 to coincide with the release of the new website. Over 1700 people are registered to receive @CARESEARCH. This survey was undertaken to examine the impact and effectiveness of the newsletter and to identify possible areas for improvement.

Eighty nine readers responded to the @CARESEARCH online survey. Two thirds of respondents read the newsletter each month. All sections of the newsletter were regarded as useful. Items highlighting new resources in the website, recent additions to the CareSearch Review Collection and Community and research news were regarded as the most useful sections.

Most respondents felt the newsletter increased their knowledge (88%) and over half reported using information from the newsletter in their workplace. Forty percent felt that the information in the newsletter had helped them make changes within their service.

Only three respondents felt that the newsletter needed to change. There were various suggestions as to additional content that could be included.

### RESEARCH NEWS

#### Novel Concept Award (Breast Cancer Research)

The National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) has called for applications for an innovative program of breast cancer research, its [Novel Concept Award](#). These awards will provide investigators with the opportunity to pursue serendipitous observations and/or explore new, untested ideas relevant to breast cancer. Applications Friday 23rd July 2010

#### 2011 NHMRC funding round for Scholarships

The [2011 NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarships Scheme](#) aims to support outstanding Australian health and medical graduates early in their career so that they can be trained to conduct research that is internationally competitive and to develop a capacity for original independent research. Applications for 2011 funding close 30 July 2010 (6:00pm AEST)

#### NHMRC Strategic Plan (2010 - 2012)

The NHMRC has released its [Strategic Plan for 2010 - 2012](#). It has prioritised ten major health issues for this period: Building a self-improving health system; Indigenous health and well-being; Ageing and health; Chronic disease; Mental health; Genomic medicine and frontier technologies; Planning for emerging infectious disease threats; Examining alternative therapy claims; Global health and Health consequences of climate change.

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

### Australia's Health 2010

The 2010 edition of [Australia's Health](#) is now available. It provides an invaluable compendium of statistics and analysis on the health of Australia.

### International Palliative Care Network Poster Exhibition - 2010

Palliative Care Network Community (PCNC) is hosting the [International Palliative Care Network Poster Exhibition-2010](#). Participation is open to all palliative care professionals from across the globe. Deadline for poster submission: 11:59 Eastern Time (USA), August 31, 2010.

**FROM EARLY 2011-12 THE CANCER AGENCY, CANCER AUSTRALIA WILL BE AMALGAMATED WITH THE NATIONAL BREAST AND OVARIAN CANCER CENTRE (NBOCC)...**

### Cancer Australia News

From early 2011-12 the cancer agency, Cancer Australia will be amalgamated with the National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) to form a [National Cancer Agency](#). Dr Helen Zorbas has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Cancer Australia.

### IPCFR Newsletter

The latest [International Palliative Care Family Carer Research Collaboration newsletter](#) is now available.

### Clearinghouse for evidence-based research on overcoming Indigenous disadvantage

This [Clearinghouse](#) maintained by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare provides access to a collection of quality information on what works to overcome Indigenous disadvantage. This will provide policy makers and program managers with an evidence base for achieving the Closing the Gap targets and related Indigenous reforms.

### World Hospice Day 2010: Sharing the care

The theme for 2010 will be '[Sharing the care](#).' This theme highlights the role of partnerships to support care for people living with a life-limiting illness. The day will highlight how good working partnerships between service providers, governments, hospitals, people living with the illness, carers and community members are vital to the provision of quality care.

### Curriculum for professionals working in paediatric palliative care

The European Association for Palliative Care Paediatric Palliative Care Steering Group has formed a task force to produce a core [curriculum for health professionals working in paediatric palliative care](#) in Europe.

### State of Our Public Hospitals

#### June 2010

The [State of Our Public Hospitals June 2010](#) report is the seventh in an annual series. It is a detailed report card on public hospital performance in the 2008-09 financial year.

### Promotion of Medicines and Medical Devices

The Australian Government has released a proposal for stronger self-regulation by the pharmaceutical and therapeutic goods industries for [promotion of medicines and medical devices](#) to doctors and health professionals. Comments should be received by 30 July 2010

### 2010 Annual Evidence Update in Complementary and Alternative Medicine

NHS Evidence has released Annual Evidence Updates for:

- > Homeopathy
- > Asthma
- > Acupuncture



## CONFERENCES

Conference: [PCV 7th Biennial Conference on Palliative Care](#)

Date: July 22-23 2010

Location: Melbourne, Victoria

Conference: [Financial Review National Health Conference 2010](#)

Date: August 17 2010

Location: Sydney, Australia

Conference: [PCNA Conference 2010](#)

Date: August 27-28 2010

Location: Brisbane, Queensland

Conference: [18th International Congress on Palliative Care](#)

Date: October 5-8 2010

Location: Montreal, Canada

Conference: [2010 National SARRAH Conference](#)

Date: October 20-23 2010

Location: Broome, Western Australia

This is just a small selection of the conferences held on CareSearch [Conference page](#).

## PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Many services and organisations are making use of the CareSearch promotional materials and have ordered factsheets or brochures for staff, patients and for their families. Materials can also be ordered for education and training activities. You can view all the [CareSearch promotional resources](#) on the website and download an order form. All enquiries regarding our promotional materials can be directed to Natasha Schembri via email at [natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au](mailto:natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au).

### August Newsletter

The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Monday in August. If you have any item you would like to have considered for inclusion please send details one week prior to the circulation date to [natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au](mailto:natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au).



**CARESEARCH**<sup>®</sup>  
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