



FROM THE WEBSITE

Two years on...

National Palliative Care Week is held each week in May. It draws attention on how we, as a community and as health professionals, support those who are living with a terminal illness and approaching death. This year Palliative Care Australia's campaign focuses on [If only I knew...how to talk about dying](#). This campaign aims to encourage community discussion about death and dying.

In 2008, [CareSearch was launched](#) during National Palliative Care Week. Two years later, over 40,000 people visit the website each month and around 190,000 pages are viewed each month.

This year Minister for Health Nicola Roxon and Minister for Ageing Justine Elliot, marked National Palliative Care Week 2010 by announcing [\\$14.3 million to fund nine projects](#) for improved palliative care services, research, training and information including a further year's funding for CareSearch.

Patient Carer Resources

Last year seven brochures covering a number of important topics for patients, carers, families and friends were produced. We have designed and printed a [specific envelope packet](#) that can be used to hold all seven brochures as an easy kit. Services and organisations can now order the brochures in the kit as well as ordering individual brochures.

We have also produced a [poster](#) reminding us that death and dying will affect us all. The poster prints as an A3 page. Services and organisations can easily print it locally for any events or promotions. If needed, you can email us at CareSearch@flinders.edu.au and we will send out copies.

CareSearch Review Collection

There were ten systematic reviews added to the CareSearch Review Collection during May 2010 including:

- > Parker D, Hodgkinson B, A comparison of palliative care outcome measures used to assess the quality of palliative care provided in Residential Aged Care Facilities: a systematic review 2010 JBI Library of Systematic Reviews 8(3):90-120

This review looked at the psychometric properties (reliability/validity) and feasibility of palliative outcome measures used to assess the quality of palliative care provided in residential aged care facilities. Ten articles were included in the final review providing specific information on the psychometric properties of ten outcome measures. The authors concluded that at present the Family Perceptions of Care Scale (FPCS) provides the most suitable outcome measure for use in RACFs.

- > Bell CL, Somogyi-Zalud E, Masaki KH. [Factors associated with congruence between preferred and actual place of death](#). J Pain Symptom Manage. 2010 39(3):591-604

Most patients prefer a home death, but many patients do not die in their preferred location. This study sought to review the extent of congruence between preferred and actual location reported in the literature and factors associated with congruence. The authors concluded that physician support, hospice enrolment, and family support improved congruence in multiple studies.

- > Mularski RA, Campbell ML, Asch SM, Reeve BB, Basch E, Maxwell TL, Hoverman JR, Cuny J, Clauser SB, Snyder C, Seow H, Wu AW, Dy S. [A review of quality of care evaluation for the palliation of dyspnea](#). Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2010 181(6):534-8.

This review looked at quality of care measures for dyspnea by compiling quality measures identified in systematic searches and reviews. The authors concluded that there is no consensus on how dyspnea should be characterized for quality measurement, and although over 40 tools exist to assess dyspnea, no rating scale or instrument is ideal for palliative care.

- > Buckley T, McKinley S, Tofler G, Bartrop R. [Cardiovascular risk in early bereavement: a literature review and proposed mechanisms](#). Int J Nurs Stud. 2010 47(2):229-38

This review examined the evidence of cardiovascular risk in early bereavement. The review found that bereavement represents a time of heightened cardiovascular risk for the surviving spouse. The immediate weeks following bereavement represent the highest risk period with both men and women across all ages.

CNIN May 2010

The CareSearch Nurses Information Newsletter for [May 2010](#) is now available.

This month's issue includes:

- > [Clinical Uses: Bereavement, Loss and Grief](#)
- > [Evidence Based Practice: What is a Clinical trial](#)
- > [CareSearch Page Profile: Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative \(PACCSC\)](#)
- > [Nurses Stories from International Nurses Day](#)

Previous newsletters and all the CNIN topic sheets can be found on the CNIN page.

Research Studies Register

If you have recently begun a new clinical trial or research study relevant to palliative care, we would like to have details for the [Research Studies Register](#). It provides a means of sharing information, developing linkages, preventing duplication and promoting awareness of current research activities. You can [download a proforma](#) complete the details and email it caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

RESEARCH NEWS

Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) Research Program

The PCFA wishes to encourage and support their interest in prostate cancer research through a [research grants program](#). Grant categories are: Young Investigator Grants, Concept Grants, Project Grants and Equipment Grants. Applications close 1 July 2010.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

National Palliative Care Week 2010 - \$14 Million Boost

Minister for Health Nicola Roxon and Minister for Ageing Justine Elliot, today marked [National Palliative Care Week 2010](#) by announcing \$14.3 million to fund nine projects for improved palliative care services, research, training and information.

Syringe Driver Replacement Program - Round 2

Palliative Care Australia has been appointed by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to manage the application, assessment and funding process for a \$2.38m program for the [replacement of Graseby syringe drivers](#) used by community-based palliative care service providers. Applications close on 18 June 2010

Rural Palliative Care Project

Further funding has been provided to the [Rural Palliative Care Project](#) to continue to provide coordinated palliative care to patients and families in rural and regional areas.

Supporting People in Later Life Annual Evidence Update 2010

NHS Evidence has released its annual evidence update on [Supporting People in Later Life](#). It provides information on important recent evidence about caring for older people in six areas- Acute care, Residential and Supported Care, Primary and Community Care, Assessment, Assistive Technologies and Telehealth, and Independent Living.

National Palliative Care Week

If only I knew ... how to talk about dying is the theme for the [13th National Palliative Care Week](#) being held during May 2010. Palliative Care Australia has produced a postcard set with tips and information to help people to think about how they would like their end of life to be.

Resources in other Languages

To coincide with National Palliative Care Week, Palliative Care Australia has translated three of its most popular [consumer resources in 21 languages](#): What is palliative care? Facts about morphine, and Asking questions can help.



CONFERENCES

There are many conferences for nurses that relate to palliative care.

They include:

Conference: [CNSA 2010 Congress](#)

Date: July 29-31 2010

Location: Perth, Western Australia

Conference: [PCNA Conference 2010](#)

Date: August 27-28 2010

Location: Brisbane, Queensland

Conference: [Nurse Practitioner/Advance Practice Nursing Network Conference](#)

Date: September 8-11 2010

Location: Brisbane, Queensland

Conference: [33rd Annual Oncology Nurses Group Conference](#)

Date: September 9-10 2010

Location: Gold Coast, Queensland

Conference: [7th Biennial Joanna Briggs Colloquium](#)

Date: September 13-15 2010

Location: Chicago, USA

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.

July Newsletter

The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Monday in July. 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.



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