



FROM THE WEBSITE

Heart Failure

To co-incide with World Hospice Day, CareSearch is releasing new resources relating to heart failure. Heart failure is a significant health issue and each year around 30,000 Australians are diagnosed with chronic heart failure. Symptom burden towards the end of life can be troublesome for heart failure patients. Heart failure was the underlying cause of death for 2,225 people in 2005 with most of these over 75 years of age.

The CareSearch project team working with the Curtin Centre for Cardiovascular and Chronic Care has developed and tested a heart failure filter to retrieve relevant literature. The new filter, like the palliative care filter, enables health professionals and researchers to use a search strategy that has a known level of effectiveness. The filter has also been translated into PubMed and combined with a set of topic searches important in the care of those with heart failure to enable real-time searching of the National Library of Medicine's database.

A new set of Clinical Practice pages provide a summary of the systematic review level evidence for heart failure in a palliative care context. The new pages are:

- > [Heart Failure](#)
- > [Prognostic issues](#)
- > [Symptoms and Patients' Experiences](#)
- > [Management issues](#)
- > [Carers and Families](#)
- > [Service Issues](#)
- > [Heart Failure PubMed Topic Searches](#)

CareSearch Review Collection

Twenty one systematic reviews were added to the CareSearch Review Collection in September 2010 including:

- > Adams LA, Shepard N, Caruso RA, Norling MJ, Belansky H, Cunningham RS. [Putting evidence into practice: evidence-based interventions to prevent and manage anorexia](#). Clin J Oncol Nurs. 2009 Feb;13(1):95-102
This review showed that anorexia is common among newly diagnosed patients and those with advanced disease, interventions to prevent, treat, and manage the symptom are limited. Two pharmacologic interventions, corticosteroids and progestins, are suggested for use in clinical practice, and dietary counseling was identified as likely to be effective.

- > Jones BL, Pelletier W, Decker C, Barczyk A, Dungan SS. [Fathers of children with cancer: a descriptive synthesis of the literature](#). Soc Work Health Care. 2010 May;49(5):458-93.

Fifty three studies were included in a review of issues relevant to fathers of children with cancer. Fathers experience unique stressors which may need specific focus and clinical attention from social workers. Review findings suggest the unique role gender plays in coping with childhood cancer, the importance of involving fathers in childhood cancer research, and in structuring psychosocial support addressing their specific concerns.

- > Kilbride L, Cox M, Kennedy CM, Lee SH, Grant R. [Metastatic spinal cord compression: A review of practice and care](#). J Clin Nurs. 2010;19(13-14):1767-83.

Thirty-five articles were included in the review. The authors concluded that evidence relating to spinal stability bracing, patient mobilisation and positioning is limited and may be inconclusive. It is important for patients with a poor prognosis that their preferences and quality of life are considered.

- > O'Connor M, Watts J, Bloomer M, Larkins K. [Loss and grief in the workplace: What can we learn from the literature?](#) International Journal of Workplace Health Management. 2010;3(2):131-42.

The review found that despite illness and death occurring at any stage of a person's life, there is little research that identifies workplace issues associated with grief and loss. The authors suggest that effective workplace supports will need individual and workplace responses as well as legislative approaches in order to effect broad-based system change.

- > Lobb EA, Kristjanson LJ, Aoun SM, Monterosso L, Halkett GKB, Davies A. [Predictors of complicated grief: a systematic review of empirical studies](#). Death Studies. 2010;34(8):673 - 98.

This review looked at predictors of complicated grief. A number of predictors prior to the death were identified as well as factors associated with the death. Perceived social support played a key role after death, along with cognitive appraisals and high distress at the time of the death. The authors noted some issues around inconsistent definitions of CG and measurement tools in the earlier studies.

Nurses Hub Update

Since its release in late August at the Palliative Care Nurses Association Conference, there have been over 12,500 views of pages within the [Nurses Hub](#).

There are several new promotional resources that can be used to let other nurses working in other settings such as residential aged care facilities, oncology wards or in general practice know about the resources. The following resources can be printed from the website or ordered from the CareSearch office:

- > [Nurses Hub Fact Sheet](#)
- > [Nurses Promotional Poster](#)
- > [Supporting those working in residential aged care](#) [Fact sheet]

The first newsletter, [nurses\[HUB\]news September 2010](#) has been sent out to over 500 nurses. This newsletter replaces CNIN. The first of the bimonthly editions focusing on a specific theme will be emailed on Wednesday 20 October. The October theme is heart failure.

THE FIRST NEWSLETTER, NURSES[HUB] NEWS SEPTEMBER 2010 HAS BEEN SENT OUT TO OVER 500 NURSES.

Revised Models of Service Delivery Page

Palliative care is provided across the spectrum of health settings, where possible, to meet the needs of patients living with or dying of a life limiting illness and their families. The [Models of Service Delivery page](#) in the Clinical Practice section has been revised to incorporate new systematic review evidence since the launch of the page in 2008.

New Research Studies

A new study was added to the Research Studies Register in September:

- > [REACH out in Dementia](#)
Clinical Professor Jan Potter

If you have a study you would like to share with the palliative care community please download the [Research Studies proforma](#) and email the completed form to caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

Guidelines for collecting Indigenous status in health data sets

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has produced [guidelines for collecting Indigenous status in health data sets](#). The guidelines will support a national approach for collecting and recording accurate information on the Indigenous status of clients.

NPS Phone services update

From 1 July some changes have taken place in relation to the NPS phone services. The Therapeutic Advisory Information Service (TAIS) for health professionals has ceased operation. To assist health professionals seeking medicines information, a [Guide to medicines information resources](#) page on the website with links to information sources and services has been created.

The World Alzheimer Report 2010

Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) has released a new report, [The World Alzheimer Report 2010](#), which provides the most current and comprehensive global picture of the economic and social costs of the illness. The report indicates that the worldwide costs of dementia will exceed 1% of global GDP in 2010, at US\$604 billion, noting that if dementia care were a country, it would be the world's 18th largest economy.

Graduate Certificate of Adolescent Health and Welfare Oncology

A new [postgraduate certificate program on AYA cancer care/oncology](#) being offered by the University of Melbourne in 2011, developed by the Centre for Adolescent Health (Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne) and the [onTrac@PeterMac](#) Victorian AYA Cancer Service.



RESEARCH NEWS

PaCCSC Research Meeting 17-18 March 2011

The 2nd [Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative Research Meeting](#) will be held in Sydney on 17-18 March 2011. Individuals are invited to submit a synopsis of a clinical study. For further information contact tamzin.bullock@health.sa.gov.au.

Australian Rotary Health - Grants and Scholarships

There are several [grants and PhD scholarships](#) now open through Australian Rotary Health. Applications close 3 December 2010.

Lung Foundation Research Awards

There are five [Lung Foundation research awards](#) categories open across a variety of areas. Details on all awards are available at the website. Closing date: 1 November 2010.

CONFERENCES

Rural Australia is hosting a number of conferences between now and the end of the year including:

Conference: [2010 National SARRAH Conference](#)

Date: October 20-23 2010

Location: Broome, Western Australia

Conference: [Updating Professional Practice in Palliative Care](#)

Date: October 21-22 2010

Location: Torquay, Victoria

Conference: [Nurses Lighting the Way PGNA Conference](#)

Date: October 29 2010

Location: Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia

Conference: Palliative Care NSW 2010 State Conference

Date: November 3-5 2010

Location: Hunter Valley, New South Wales, 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.

If you are faxing promotional orders to us, please make sure you use our new fax number.

> Facsimile: (08) 7221 8238

November Newsletter

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

If you have any item you would like to have considered for inclusion please send details one week prior to the circulation date to

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