



FROM THE WEBSITE

Introducing the Nurses Hub

A new resource to support nurses is now available in the CareSearch website. The [Nurses Hub](#) brings together evidence based information and quality resources to help nurses find relevant information quickly and easily. The information in the Nurses Hub has been written for all nurses not just nurses working in specialist palliative care services. All pages have been written by and reviewed by nurses.

The Hub has a number of sections including:

- > [Clinical](#)
- > [Areas of Practice](#)
- > [Research](#)
- > [Education](#)
- > [Nurses Providing Palliative Care](#)
- > [Policy Quality Standards](#)
- > [Resources](#)
- > [Nurses News](#)

Each of these sections provides information, links to tools and resources and further references. Related CareSearch pages are highlighted and a free full text article can be read immediately or downloaded and printed.

A newsletter for nurses called [nurses\[HUB\]news](#) is being launched in September and will replace CNIN.

New National Program section

A set of projects around [Palliative Care for People at Home](#) were developed cooperatively by the Department of Health and Ageing and state and territory health departments. These will be included in the National Program section. Further information and resources on the [Victorian projects](#) are now available including:

- > The Role of the Pharmacist in the Community Palliative Care Multidisciplinary Team
- > Improving access to palliative care for people who have had a stroke and their carers

CareSearch Review Collection

Seven systematic reviews were added to the CareSearch Review Collection in August 2010 including:

- > Gill F, Duffy A. [Caring for cancer patients on non-specialist wards](#). Br J Nurs. 2010 Jun 24-Jul 7;19(12):761-7.

This literature review examined the research pertaining to caring for patients with cancer on non-specialist wards. The authors noted that non-specialist cancer nurses reported a lack of education and training with regard to cancer care and cancer treatments and that emotional and communication issues with patients and their families led to significant distress for these nurses.

- > Loveman E, Jones J, Hartwell D, Bird A, Harris P, Welch K, Clegg A. [The clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of topotecan for small cell lung cancer: a systematic review and economic evaluation](#). Health Technol Assess. 2010 Mar;14(19):1-204.

The review looked at topotecan, used within its licensed indication as second-line treatment for patients with relapsed SCLC, compared to other chemotherapy regimens or best supportive care (BSC) on measures of disease progression and survival. The authors concluded that the clinical evidence suggests that topotecan is better than BSC alone in terms of improved survival, is as effective as CAV, and less favourable than i.v. amrubicin in terms of response. They felt that further research on the impact of active treatment on resource use for palliative care would improve cost-effectiveness models for topotecan.

- > Shih M, Yang YH, Koo M. [A meta-analysis of hypnosis in the treatment of depressive symptoms: a brief communication](#). Int J Clin Exp Hypn. 2009 Oct;57(4):431-42.

This review looked at the efficacy of hypnosis in the treatment of depressive symptoms. A meta analysis of findings from six studies indicated that hypnosis significantly improves symptoms of depression with a combined effect size of 0.57.

- > Brown LF, Kroenke K. [Cancer-related fatigue and its associations with depression and anxiety: a systematic review](#). Psychosomatics. 2009 Sep-Oct;50(5):440-7

This review examined evidence regarding the association of cancer related fatigue with depression and anxiety. Fifty studies were included. Average correlation of fatigue with depression, weighted by sample size, was 0.56 and for anxiety, 0.46. The authors noted that the nature and direction of causality among these variables remains uncertain.

Research Studies Register

Two new studies were added to the Research Studies Register in August. 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.

> [Improving the welfare and end of life experience for residents, families and staff: A case conferencing approach for older people living with advanced dementia or mental illness.](#)

Principal Investigator: Meera Agar

> [Use of Methylnaltrexone for Opioid induced constipation in usual clinical setting.](#)

Principal Investigator: Juli Moran

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

MND website

A new website, www.mndcare.net.au, has been established as a 'one-stop shop' about motor neurone disease for primary, allied, palliative, aged, disability and community care professionals.

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Metastatic malignant disease of unknown primary origin guideline

The advice in the NICE guideline deals with the [diagnosis and management of metastatic malignant disease of unknown primary origin](#). It covers: the treatment and care of adults with suspected or diagnosed cancer of unknown primary, including people who have been treated for cancer before.

Lymphoedema guidelines

[International lymphoedema guidelines](#) developed with the Canadian and UK International Lymphoedema Framework Teams have been issued for the management of lymphoedema in advanced cancer and oedema at the end of life.

RESEARCH NEWS

Foundation Community

Wellbeing grants

The [Ian Potter Foundation Community Wellbeing grants](#) funds two sets of grants - smaller grants (under \$50,000) to support community-based organisations with strong volunteer components to deliver programs targeting disadvantage, poverty and the general wellbeing of the community and large grants program seeks to improve the life chances of individuals and families. Closing date for applications is 13 September 2010

NHMRC Research Funding Facts

The NHMRC has produced a brief publication [NHMRC Research Funding Facts Book 2010](#) that contains key statistics related to NHMRC's research funding and research activity over the last ten years.



CONFERENCES

New conferences for 2011 are being added. They may prompt your thinking for planning holidays, training or presenting in 2011.

Conference: [2nd International Conference of Public Health and Palliative Care](#)

Date: January 16-17 2011

Location: Dhakka, Bagladesh

Conference: [11th National Rural Health Conference](#)

Date: March 13-16 2011

Location: Perth, Western Australia

Conference: [6th WIP World Pain Congress](#)

Date: April 29-May 1 2011

Location: Seoul, South Korea

Conference: [Spiritual Care Australia National Conference](#)

Date: May 1-6 2011

Location: Perth, Western Australia

Conference: [9th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference](#)

Date: July 14-17 2011

Location: Penang, Malaysia

Conference: [PCA Biennial Conference](#)

Date: 30 August - 2 September 2011

Location: Cairns, Queensland

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.

New resources have been produced to support the release of the Nurses Hub. There is a fact sheet, [Reasons why you should visit the CareSearch Nurses Hub](#), and a [Nurses Hub poster](#).

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

October Newsletter

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