



## FROM THE WEBSITE

### New Pages

#### [New Video Resource: Associate Professor Deb Parker](#)

Deb Parker talks about palliative care and aged care nursing and how communication and exchange between the sectors is important.

#### [Revised Clinical Practice pages](#)

The following pages relating to Appetite have been revised to include new reviews in the area

- > [Appetite Problems](#)
- > [Cachexia Anorexia Syndrome](#)
- > [Appetite Stimulants](#)
- > [Artificial Nutrition](#)

### Nurses Hub News

The January edition is now available. This edition will keep you in touch with what is happening in palliative care and has a special focus on aged care. Find out about:

- > [Nurses in the Spotlight: Associate Professor Deb Parker](#)
- > [Discussion Starter: Aged care](#)
- > [Clinical Uses: Residential Aged Care Facilities](#)
- > [EBP: Informed Consent](#)
- > [nurses\[HUB\]news \(PDF Version 81kb\)](#)

### CareSearch Review Collection

Thirty reviews have been added to the [CareSearch Review Collection](#) over December and January. They include:

- > Peuckmann V, Elsner F, Krumm N, Trottenberg P, Radbruch L. [Pharmacological treatments for fatigue associated with palliative care](#). *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2010 Nov 10;11:CD006788.  
The objective of this systematic review was to determine efficacy of pharmacological treatments on non-specific fatigue in palliative care. More than 2000 publications were screened, and 22 met inclusion criteria. However, based on limited evidence, the authors could not recommend a specific drug for treatment of fatigue in palliative care patients.
- > Albers G, Echteld MA, de Vet HC, Onwuteaka-Philipsen BD, van der Linden MH, Deliens L. [Content and spiritual items of quality-of-life instruments appropriate for use in palliative care: a review](#). *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2010 Aug;40(2):290-300.

This study provides information about the domains included in Quality-of-Life instruments that are suitable for use in palliative care. The authors outlined differences in content, which could be helpful when choosing an instrument for use in palliative care.

- > Rayner L, Price A, Evans A, Valsraj K, Hotopf M, Higginson IJ. [Antidepressants for the treatment of depression in palliative care: systematic review and meta-analysis](#). *Palliat Med*. 2011 Jan;25(1):36-51.  
This review provides evidence that antidepressants are effective in treating depression in palliative care. The authors reported that the superiority of antidepressants over placebo is apparent within 4-5 weeks and increases with continued use.
- > Simoens S, Kuttan B, Keirse E, Berghe PV, Beguin C, Desmedt M, Deveugle M, Léonard C, Paulus D, Menten J. [The costs of treating terminal patients](#). *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2010 Sep;40(3):436-48.  
The authors noted that palliative care costs depend on patient characteristics, such as diagnosis, status of disease, and age. There is some evidence pointing to cost advantages of palliative care at home as compared with alternative care models.
- > Disler R, Jones A. [District nurse role in end-stage COPD: a review](#). *Br J Community Nurs*. 2010 Sep;15(9):428-30, 432-33.  
This review found limited literature describing the role of district nurses in end-stage COPD care. Most studies only reported frequency of interaction. A clear bias of end-of-life services to patients with malignancy was noted.
- > Parker D, Hodgkinson B. [A comparison of palliative care outcome measures used to assess the quality of palliative care provided in long-term care facilities: a systematic review](#). *Palliat Med*. 2011 Jan;25(1):5-20.  
This systematic review looked at the psychometric properties (reliability/validity) and feasibility of palliative outcome measures used to assess the quality of palliative care provided in long-term care facilities. The Family Perceptions of Care Scale is considered by the authors as the most suitable outcome measure for use in long-term care facilities.

### CareSearch Grey Literature: Theses

The [CareSearch Grey Literature](#) collects details on several categories of Australian palliative care literature and work that are “hard-to-find” including theses and treatises from Australian universities. Details on the following theses have recently been added to the database:

- > The perceptions of Palliative Care Instrument (PPCI): Development and validation in an advanced cancer setting Donna Jane Milne (PhD). This thesis presents a mixed methods study utilising an exploratory two phase sequential design of how cancer patients, family carers and members of their treating teams perceive palliative care.
- > Being a palliative care volunteer Margaret M McKibbin (D.Health.Sc). In this review volunteers’ experiences in the field of palliative care were explored from the perspective of volunteers.

### New Research Studies

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](mailto:caresearch@flinders.edu.au).

Providing details of research in progress can prevent duplication in research activity, encourage the development of research networks and facilitate the implementation of research findings.

### NURSES HUB EVALUATION

The Nurses Hub was released in August 2010 and we are keen to find out how the Nurses Hub is being used by the palliative care community. The Centre for Health Service Development, University of Wollongong is working with CareSearch to collect feedback and quality improvement information. An [online survey](#) is one component of the Nurses Hub evaluation.

## THE NURSES HUB WAS RELEASED IN AUGUST 2010 AND WE ARE KEEN TO FIND OUT HOW THE NURSES HUB IS BEING USED BY THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY.

The specific objectives of this survey are:

- > Identify what information would be useful for nurses to improve the quality of their practice,
- > To gain an understanding on how nurses use the Nurses Hub, and
- > To identify possible areas for improvement.

We would like to invite those who use the Nurses Hub to [take the survey](#). The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Ethics approval has been granted by the University of Wollongong (HE10/429).



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

### Australian Government Directory of Services for Older People

The [Australian Government Directory of Services for Older People 2011](#) has been produced as a comprehensive guide to the wide range of services provided for older people.

### Caring For Older Australians - Draft report

This [draft report](#) was prepared by the Productivity Commission for public consultation and input. Written submissions to the Productivity Commission are invited. Closing date for submissions is Monday 21 March 2011.

### 2011 Annual Evidence Update on 'Patient and carer involvement in chronic disease'

This is the third '[Patient and carer involvement in chronic disease](#)' prepared by NHS Evidence. The references have been arranged in 15 categories.

### Medicare Locals and Local Hospital Networks – Boundaries

The boundaries for Medicare Locals and Local Hospital Networks have now been determined. The maps for Medicare Local and Local Hospital Network boundaries are now available at [www.yourhealth.gov.au](http://www.yourhealth.gov.au).



## THE AUSTRALIAN CANCER TRIALS WEBSITE ENABLES CONSUMERS TO SEEK INFORMATION ABOUT CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS IN AUSTRALIA.

### Australian Cancer Trials

The [Australian Cancer Trials](#) website enables consumers to seek information about cancer clinical trials in Australia. It is intended to assist people decide which trials, if any, to join. The site has been developed by Cancer Australia, the University of Sydney, the Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (ANZCTR) and Cancer Voices.

### Palliative Medicine Update

ANZSPM will be conducting its inaugural two-day [Medical & Surgical Update for Palliative Medicine](#), July 29-30 2011, at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne. The event is targeted at medical and nurse practitioners who work in palliative care.

### Review of Cancer Control Activities

Cancer Australia has undertaken a [review of cancer control activities](#). This audit collates and reviews existing information (published and unpublished) about national cancer control activity in Australia to identify opportunities for building collaboration and capacity, and strengths, gaps and overlaps in activities and effort. The review includes a chapter on palliative care.

## RESEARCH NEWS

### Development of Advanced Health Research Centres

The NHMRC is seeking comment on a [discussion paper - Developing Advanced Health Research Centres in Australia](#). The consultation period on the discussion paper will last until 5 March 2011.

### Applications for 2011 Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme grants

Applications for these [Collaborative Cancer Research Grants](#) to commence in 2012 are now open. Closes at 5pm (AEDT) 8 March 2011.

### 2011 Translating Research Into Practice (TRIP) Fellowships (commencing 2012)

The two-year half-time [TRIP Fellowships](#) are available to early career clinical leaders. The successful candidates will undertake an implementation research project. Closing date: 24 March 2011, 5:00pm AEDST.

### NHMRC Partnerships for Better Health

[NHMRC Partnerships Projects](#) are designed to help create partnerships among decision makers, policy makers, managers, clinicians and researchers. Partnership Projects will focus on informing the decisions that influence health and well-being through changes in the delivery, organisation, funding and access to health services. Applications close on 29 April 2011

## CONFERENCES

There are a number of conferences in Australia in the first six months of 2011. They include:

Conference: [APNA National Conference 2011](#)

Date: April 7-9 2011

Location: Sydney, NSW

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

Date: May 1-6 2011

Location: Perth, Western Australia

Conference: [Mindful Connections 2011 Conference](#)

Date: May 5-6 2011

Location: Creswick, Victoria

Conference: [RCNA National Conference 2011](#)

Date: May 25-27 2011

Location: Sydney, New South Wales

Conference: [CPCRE Research Conference](#)

Date: May 27 2011

Location: Brisbane, Queensland

Conference: [Australian Pain Society 31st Annual Scientific Meeting](#)

Date: June 12-16 2011

Location: Darwin, Northern Territory:

You can find out more about what is happening with conferences by checking the [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.

We have a few desk calendars remaining that can be ordered until 18 February 2011 or while stocks last.

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).

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

> Facsimile: (08) 7221 8238

## March 2011 Newsletter

The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Monday in March 2011. 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).



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