



FROM THE WEBSITE

New pages

Mental illness

One in two Australians have experienced an episode of mental illness and one in five currently have symptoms. Depression, trauma and anxiety are the most common. Other conditions like schizophrenia and bipolar are less common. All conditions can lead to complexities in the treatment regime for all health professionals. New resources are available in CareSearch to support patients and families and those health professionals caring for them.

- > [Mental Illness \(Clinical Practice\)](#)
- > [Mental Illness \(For Patients and Families\)](#)

Revised Clinical Practice pages

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

- > [Nausea](#)
- > [Antiemetics](#)
- > [Bowel Obstruction](#)

The following revised pages relating to End of Life have been uploaded:

- > [End of life care](#)
- > [Principles of good end of life care](#)
- > [Patients' and families' experience](#)
- > [Symptom management at the end of life](#)
- > [Evaluation and quality assessment](#)
- > [End of life care in different settings](#)

CareSearch Review Collection

Nine reviews were added to the [CareSearch Review Collection](#) in February. They include:

- > Mitchell AJ, Chan M, Bhatti H, Halton M, Grassi L, Johansen C, Meader N. [Prevalence of depression, anxiety, and adjustment disorder in oncological, haematological, and palliative-care settings: a meta-analysis of 94 interview-based studies](#). *Lancet Oncol*. 2011 Feb;12(2):160-74.
The authors identified 24 studies with 4007 individuals across seven countries in palliative-care settings. Meta-analytical pooled prevalence of depression [DSM or ICD criteria] was 16.5%. Combination diagnoses were common.

- > Arthur A, Wilson E, James M, Stanton W, Seymour J, University of Nottingham. [Bereavement care services: a synthesis of the literature](#). London :Department of Health: 2011 Jan. 73p

This report describes a review and synthesis of 88 papers that report data relating to bereavement services. They noted that social networks are the main source of support for most people and many report that they do not need formal bereavement support services. The study reported that the strongest evidence is for targeted and specific intervention for people with more complex grief reactions and that there is no evidence to support the use of intensive bereavement interventions universally.

- > Higginson IJ, Evans CJ. [What is the evidence that palliative care teams improve outcomes for cancer patients and their families?](#) *Cancer J*. 2010 Sep-Oct;16(5):423-35

The authors wanted to determine whether specialist palliative care teams achieve their aims and improve outcomes for patients with advanced cancer and their caregivers, in terms of improving symptoms and quality of life and/or reducing the emotional concerns of family caregivers. They reported that the evidence demonstrated that home, hospital, and inpatient specialist palliative care significantly improved patient outcomes in the domains of pain and symptom control, anxiety, and reduced hospital admissions

- > Conelius J. [A literature review: Advance directives and patients with implantable cardioverter defibrillators](#). *J Am Acad Nurse Pract*. 2010 May;22(5):250-5.

The purpose of this literature review is to describe the severity of and susceptibility for negative outcomes in patients with implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs) who lack advanced directives. The authors suggest that the patients' preferences should be discussed often in patient care in case they would like changes made to their advance directive as their condition changes.

Nurses Hub Evaluation

Thank you to the many people who answered the online survey. We have 230 responses that provide valuable information about how nurses are using the Nurses Hub. This helps us plan new resources and helps us to communicate most effectively with intended users of this resource. We will provide a more comprehensive review when the analysis and stakeholder interviews are completed.

nurses[HUB]news

The [nurses\[HUB\]news February 2011](#) is now available.

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. Please send details of any theses we are missing from our collection to caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

RESEARCH NEWS

NHMRC RGMS Problems

Information on the state of grant applications using RGMS can be found on the [NHMRC website](#).

Dementia Grants Program

Alzheimer's Australia Research (AAR) offers a range of awards. In 2011 AAR is offering a number of [dementia grants](#) including new investigator grants, grants into dementia care, travel grants as well as postgraduate scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

National Palliative Care Strategy 2010

The Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, has released the [National Palliative Care Strategy 2010](#). The strategy will assist in coordinating activities to improve palliative care between the Australian Government's National Palliative Care Program (NPCP) and the states and territories, which provide most palliative care services in the community.

THE MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND AGEING, THE HON MARK BUTLER MP, HAS RELEASED THE NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE STRATEGY 2010.

BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care

[BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care](#) – a new, international, peer-reviewed journal for clinicians, researchers and healthcare workers in all areas of supportive and palliative care practice - is now accepting submissions for the journal.

Psychosexual Gynaecological Cancer (PSGC) modules

The National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers, Cancer Learning has launched a set of [Psychosexual Gynaecological Cancer \(PSGC\) modules](#). The six online modules to assist all health professionals develop the knowledge and skills to support women and their partners experiencing psychosexual concerns following gynaecological cancer.

National Health Reforms

On 13 February 2011 every Australian government signed a new [Heads of Agreement on National Health Reform](#).

Applications to establish Medicare Locals

The first call for [applications to establish Medicare Locals](#) to be locally responsive, to address local needs, to improve access to services and to drive integration across the health care system has been made.



CONFERENCES

There are a number of health conferences being held that add to the general knowledge on issues for patients and families. They include:

Conference: [2011 Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health Conference](#)

Date: May 5-6 2011

Location: Sydney, New South Wales

Conference: [4th Australian Conference on Spirituality & Health](#)

Date: July 11-13 2011

Location: Adelaide, South Australia

Conference: [2011 Consumers Reforming Health Conference](#)

Date: July 18-20 2011

Location: Melbourne, Victoria

Conference: [Australasian Association of Bioethics & Health Law 2011 Conference](#)

Date: July 7-10 2011

Location: Gold Coast, Queensland

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.

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

April 2011 Newsletter

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



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