



## FROM THE WEBSITE

### Last chance to show us how YOU look for palliative care information online!

If you work with palliative care patients, on either a regular or occasional basis, you have until Wednesday 5.00pm to take part in an [online survey](#) looking at how health professionals seek trustworthy palliative care information online. It should take you less than 10 minutes to complete. Further information on this research project is available [here](#).

*This research project has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (Project Number 5284). For more information regarding ethical approval of the project, contact the Executive Officer of the Committee on 82013116, by fax on 8201 2035 or by email [human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au](mailto:human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au).*

### CareSearch Review Collection

Fourteen new systematic reviews or structured literature reviews were added to the CareSearch Review Collection during October 2011. They included:

- > Slort W, Schweitzer BP, Blankenstein AH, Abarshi EA, Riphagen II, Echteld MA, Aaronson NK, van der Horst H, Deliens L. [Perceived barriers and facilitators for general practitioner-patient communication in palliative care: a systematic review](#). *Palliat Med*. 2011 Sep;25(6):613-29.  
Fifteen qualitative studies and seven quantitative questionnaire studies were included in this study. Perceived barriers included GPs' lack of availability, and patients' and GPs' ambivalence to discuss 'bad prognosis'. GPs being available, initiating discussion about several end-of-life issues and anticipating various scenarios appeared to facilitate communication.
- > Strech D, Schildmann J. [Quality of ethical guidelines and ethical content in clinical guidelines: the example of end-of-life decision-making](#). *J Med Ethics*. 2011 Jul;37(7):390-6.  
This study examined the applicability of the Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation (AGREE) instrument for the quality assessment of ethical guidelines by assessing the quality of ethical guidelines on end-of-life decision-making using the AGREE instrument. Thirty-four guidelines were included in the review. The authors concluded that the quality of many ethical guidelines could be improved in all quality domains specified by the AGREE instrument.

- > Tomlinson D, von Baeyer CL, Stinson JN, Sung L. [A systematic review of faces scales for the self-report of pain intensity in children](#). *Pediatrics*. 2010 Nov;126(5):e1168-98.

This review looked at whether any one of the faces scales is better for a particular purpose with regard to validity, reliability, feasibility, and preference. One hundred twenty-seven articles were included. All four faces pain scales were found to be adequately supported by psychometric data. When given a choice between faces scales, children preferred the Wong-Baker Faces Pain Rating Scale.

- > Schildmann EK, Rémi C, Bausewein C. [Levodropropizine in the management of cough associated with cancer or nonmalignant chronic disease- a systematic review](#). *J Pain Palliat Care Pharmacother*. 2011;25(3):209-18.

This review examined the efficacy and safety of levodropropizine in relieving cough associated with cancer or nonmalignant chronic disease. Only four studies were included that showed that levodropropizine was significantly more effective than placebo in reducing cough frequency and severity and as effective as dihydrocodeine or moguisteine. The authors' conclusion was that evidence for the antitussive efficacy of levodropropizine in these patients is scarce, and is further limited by the methodological weaknesses of the primary studies.

### nurses[HUB]news October 2011

The [October 2011](#) edition of the nurses[HUB]news is now available.

## New content and resources

### Self-Care Clinical Practice pages

The challenges of working with patients who are approaching death, and their families, may be associated with both satisfaction and stress for clinicians. Clinician stress and burnout are important concerns across the whole health system, including palliative care. As part of the ongoing review and updating of CareSearch pages, the Self-Care pages in the Clinical Practice section have been completely rewritten. The new pages now summarise what is known from the literature and evidence base for this area. The two new pages are:

- > [Self-Care](#)
- > [Clinician stress and burnout](#)

### New Nurses Views

To celebrate [World Hospice and Palliative Care Day 2011](#), CareSearch released a series of short DVDs profiling the role and contribution of three remarkable Australian palliative care nurses.

- > [Professor Jane Phillips](#)
- > [Professor Marg O'Connor](#)
- > [Professor Patsy Yates](#)

### Enhancing staff skills

The project looking at [enhancing staff skills in providing palliative care for persons experiencing dementia](#) and/or mental health issues in later life was funded under Local Palliative Care Grant Round 5. Information on the project and access to produced resources are now available.

### CareSearch Grey Literature

This dataset includes abstracts of Australian 'grey' literature relevant to palliative care. The following abstracts highlight two recently completed theses relevant to palliative care:

- > Kallianis, Voula  
*Sliding doors: how we can effectively manage the transition from palliative hospice care to residential care*
- > Banna, Sumayya  
*The evolving design of online health websites: an interpretive study of different users' activities*

To access these abstracts or other items from the [CareSearch Grey Literature](#), enter the author's name, the abstract title, or search terms that describe your interest.

## WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH?

### Outcomes of NHMRC funding round

Details on successful grants under the following [NHMRC funding rounds](#) are now available:

- > Project Grants
- > Centres of Research Excellence
- > Partnership Project Grants
- > Research Fellowships
- > Practitioner Fellowships
- > Translating Research into Practice (TRIP) Fellowships
- > Career Development Fellowships
- > Early Career Fellowships
- > Australian-European Collaborative Research Grants
- > Independent Medical Research Institute Infrastructure Support Scheme (IRISS)

### Joint Medicines Policy Conference Presentations

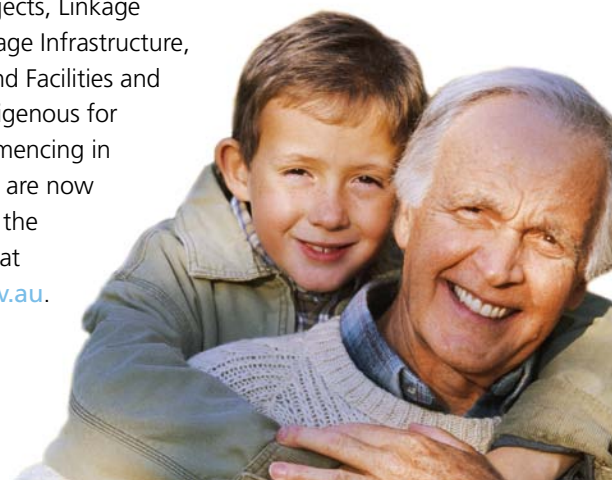
The theme of the [2011 Joint Medicines Policy Conference](#) was Health Technology Assessment for Future Generations. It focused on the challenges facing the Australian Government, the medicines industry and consumers in ensuring a sustainable Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme that meets the needs of all Australians. A number of the presentations are now available online.

### National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program (NRRHIP)

The [National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program \(NRRHIP\) Funding Round 6](#) provides funding for the provision of essential health infrastructure (capital works and equipment) and strategic service planning for small rural private hospitals, thereby supporting the establishment of new, or the enhancement of, existing health services. Applications close 15 December 2011.

### ARC funding for projects commencing in 2012

The funding outcomes of the ARC Major Grants for funding commencing 2012 have been announced. Outcomes for Discovery Projects, Linkage Projects, Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities and Discovery Indigenous for funding commencing in January 2012 are now accessible via the ARC website at [www.arc.gov.au](#).



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

### Pilot paediatric pain e-learning module

The International Children's Palliative Care Network (ICPCN) has developed an [e-learning pilot on pain assessment and management in children](#). The training module links into the new World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on the pharmacological treatment of persisting pain in children. The ICPCN is asking people who complete the pilot module to complete an evaluation form to help them develop the programme further.

### Bereavement Support and Guidance

The manner in which professionals and volunteers respond to those who are bereaved can have a long term impact on how they grieve, their health and their memories of the individual who has died. The National End of Life Care Programme, together with the Bereavement Services Association and Primary Care Commissioning, has developed a publication, [When a person dies: guidance for professionals on developing bereavement services](#), covering the principles of bereavement support and service development.

## THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (AIHW) HAS RELEASED A NEW REPORT LOOKING AT TRENDS IN PALLIATIVE CARE IN AUSTRALIAN HOSPITALS.

### Trends in palliative care in Australian hospitals

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has released a new report looking at [trends in palliative care in Australian hospitals](#). It provides an overview of the number and characteristics of palliative care admissions in public and private hospitals across Australia for the 10-year period from 1999–00 to 2008–09.

### Hospital palliative care admissions and separations

The AIHW has also released a technical paper, [Identifying palliative care separations in admitted patient data](#), that explores the most appropriate method of identifying palliative care admissions in national hospital data. This paper highlights the differences across the states and territories in the approach used to assign a code of 'palliative care' in their hospital's data.

NSW Health & University of Sydney have recently launched a web-based Clinical Ethics Resource for NSW health professionals which is available at <http://clinicaethics.info/>. It provides NSW health professionals, as well as legal and other professionals interested in clinical and bioethics, with guidelines, tools, legislation, policy, reports, articles, books and examples of legal cases.

### Advance Care Directives Framework

The [Advance Care Directives Framework](#) document was produced by one of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council's working parties. It reflects the need for a standardised national format for ACDs and the challenges posed by divergent laws.

### Global Palliative Care Development

The Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance has released the report [Mapping levels of palliative care development: A global update 2011](#). The report highlights that, while 42% of the world's countries have no access to hospice and palliative care services, progress has been made in the past five years with a rise in the number of services, particularly in Africa.

### 2011 Health and Ageing Annual report

The Department of Health and Ageing report for the 2010-11 annual report has been tabled in Parliament. Outcome 10.5 covers the [National Palliative Care Program](#).

### WHO maps noncommunicable disease trends in all countries

The World Health Organization has published a new report, ['Noncommunicable diseases country profiles 2011'](#), featuring information about the noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) situation in 193 countries. The issue of NCDs was discussed at a [UN High Level Meeting](#) where member states recognised the need to increase access to palliative care for people with NCDs.



## CONFERENCES

There are a number of major international conferences scheduled for 2012:

Conference: [International Society of Advance Care Planning and End of Life Conference](#)

Date: May 17-19 2012

Location: Chicago, USA

Conference: [ADEC 34th Annual Conference](#)

Date: March 28-31 2012

Location: Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Conference: [7th Research Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care](#)

Date: June 7-9 2012

Location: Trondheim, Norway

Conference: [14th World Congress on Pain](#)

Date: August 27-31 2012

Location: Milan, Italy

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 also order the new [Quality Use of CareSearch items](#).

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

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

> Facsimile: (08) 7221 8238

### December 2011 Newsletter

The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Monday in December 2011. If you have any items you would like to have considered for inclusion, please send details one week prior to the circulation date to [caresearch@flinders.edu.au](mailto:caresearch@flinders.edu.au).



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