



## FROM THE WEBSITE

### Residential Aged Care Project

CareSearch already has specialty palliative care information for two professional groups: nurses and GPs. We have now begun work on a specific Residential Aged Care (RAC) resource. The RAC will be an easy-to-use, readily available source of quality information on palliative care for all those who work in residential aged care. You can find out more about the project, leave comments and sign up for a Project newsletter at the [Residential Aged Care Project page](#).

### My Learning Modules

Understanding what's on CareSearch can help you find the right clinical information more efficiently. [My Learning](#) is a set of free, interactive learning modules designed to help you learn about CareSearch resources and how to use them to provide better clinical care. After completing a learning package and answering the review quiz, you will be able to print a certificate for your personal records.

### Follow us on Twitter

CareSearch is now connecting with health professionals and consumers via [Twitter!](#) Click the link above and follow us to give feedback, have a chat, and receive updates, tips, news and more. Explore an easy new way to engage with CareSearch online and connect now!

### Finding out about CareSearch related projects

CareSearch project facilities may be used or CareSearch project staff may participate in research and projects being conducted in Australia. The [CareSearch Related projects](#) page provides links to some of these projects including:

- > [Working together to improve care](#)  
Flinders University Knowledge Exchange Grant Round 1, 2011
- > [Lung Cancer Search Filters Project](#)  
2010-2011 project with Cancer Council Australia

### CareSearch Review Collection

Four new systematic reviews or structured literature reviews were added to the CareSearch Review Collection during December 2011 and 18 in January 2012. They included:

- > Harding R, List S, Epiphaniou E, Jones H. [How can informal caregivers in cancer and palliative care be supported? An updated systematic literature review of interventions and their effectiveness](#). *Palliat Med*. 2012 Jan;26(1):7-22.

This systematic review updates an earlier effectiveness review relating to intervention studies. The authors indicate that there has been a rapid increase in the number of robust intervention studies. However, the range of models remains narrow in relation to caregivers' needs and preferences.

- > Wanchai A, Armer JM, Stewart BR. [Nonpharmacologic supportive strategies to promote quality of life in patients experiencing cancer-related fatigue: a systematic review](#). *Clin J Oncol Nurs*. 2011 Apr;15(2):203-14.  
This review examines the literature related to nonpharmacologic supportive strategies in enhancing QOL among patients with breast cancer experiencing cancer related fatigue. The authors report that exercises (e.g., home-based exercise), education and counseling, sleep therapy, and complementary therapy may be feasible nonpharmacologic supportive interventions.
- > Webster LR, Cochella S et al. [An analysis of the root causes for opioid-related overdose deaths in the United States](#). *Pain Med*. 2011 Jun;12 Suppl 2:S26-35. A panel of US pain experts reviewed results from a search of PubMed and state and federal government sources to assess frequency, demographics, and risk factors for opioid-related overdose deaths. A high proportion of methadone-related deaths relative to prescribing was noted. Root causes for opioid related deaths reported by the authors included physician error due to knowledge deficits, patient non-adherence to the prescribed medication regimen, and unanticipated medical and mental health co morbidities, including substance use disorders.
- > Bausewein C, Le Grice C, Simon S, Higginson I; on behalf of PRISMA. [The use of two common palliative outcome measures in clinical care and research: a systematic review of POS and STAS](#). *Palliat Med*. 2011 Jun;25(4):304-313.  
This review looked at the use of two palliative care outcome measure (POS and STAS) in clinical care and research. Both measures have been used in cancer, HIV/AIDS and in mixed groups. The authors noted that the tools seem to be well accepted and have been used in different areas such as the evaluation of care or interventions, description of symptom prevalence and implementation of outcome measures in clinical practice.

### nurses[HUB]news January 2012

The [January 2012 edition of nurses\[HUB\]news](#) is now available and it has a specific focus on education. You can find out about:

- > [Nurses in the Spotlight: Carol Hope](#)
- > [Discussion Starter: Professional Development](#)
- > [Clinical Uses: Further Education](#)
- > [EBP: Cross Sectional Studies](#)

### CareSearch Grey Literature

This dataset includes abstracts of Australian 'grey' literature relevant to palliative care.

The following four abstracts are from posters presented at the 2011 38th Clinical Oncological Society of Australia conference.

- > Spruyt, O; Brando, A; Hall, J.  
*Transforming literature findings to practical indicators – an effort to incorporate best practice pain management for palliative care patients*
- > Pigott, C; Aranda, S.K.; Annab, R.  
*Supportive care communication skills – education resources to boost your skills*
- > Phillips, J.L.; Hickman, L.D.; Smith, M.  
*Exploring opportunities to increase patients' access to palliative care in primary care: the role of the Australian Practice Nurse*
- > Dilworth, S.; Higgins, I; Parker, V; Kelly, B; Turner, J.  
*The barriers to psychosocial care for adults with cancer*

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 THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

### Telehealth Pilots Program

The [NBN Enabled Telehealth Pilots Program](#) aims to demonstrate how the NBN infrastructure enables better access to high quality healthcare services, particularly aged care, palliative care and cancer care, using telehealth services in the home.

### National Mental Health Commission

The Australian Government has established the [National Mental Health Commission](#) to help improve Australia's mental health system. It will plan more effectively for the future mental health needs of the community, create greater accountability and transparency in the mental health system and give mental health prominence at a national level.

### New PCC4U learning module content

The Palliative Care Curriculum for Undergraduates (PCC4U) Project has released two new learning modules looking at a specific focus topic:

- > [Caring for Aboriginal people with life limiting conditions](#)
- > [A multidisciplinary approach in palliative care](#)

The learning content can be accessed on the [new PCC4U website](#).

## WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH?

### Framework for Monitoring: Guidance

The [HoMER Framework for Monitoring document](#) is now available on the Human Research Ethics Portal. This document complements the Research Governance Handbook: *Guidance for the national approach to single ethical review*, already available.

### Call for Partnership Investigator Team

Applications are now being accepted for the new [NHMRC Partnership Centre Program](#) on Dealing with Cognitive and Related Functional Decline in the Elderly. Funding of up to \$5 million per year will be provided by NHMRC and its partners to the successful investigator team. Applications close at 5pm (AEDST) on 24 February 2012.

### Career Development Fellowship scheme

The purpose of the [Career Development Fellowships \(CDF\) scheme](#) is to further develop Australian health and medical early to mid-career researchers. Applications will close on 28 March 2012.



## CONFERENCES

There are a number of Australian conferences coming up in March including:

Conference: Sydney Institute of Palliative Medicine (SIPM) 21st Annual Symposium

Date: March 14-15 2012

Location: Sydney, New South Wales

Conference: PaCCSC 3rd Research Forum

Date: March 15-16 2012

Location: Sydney, New South Wales

Conference: 2nd Whole Person Care National Symposium

Date: March 21-22 2012

Location: Sydney, New South Wales

Conference: Continuing Conversations: Updating professional practice in palliative care

Date: March 22-23 2012

Location: Geelong, Victoria

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 [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 .

### March 2012 Newsletter

The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Monday in March 2012. 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).



**CARESEARCH**<sup>®</sup>  
palliative care knowledge network

Telephone (08) 7221 8227

Facsimile (08) 7221 8238

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

Website [www.caresearch.com.au](http://www.caresearch.com.au)