

CARESEARCH PAGE PROFILE: FINDING OUT MORE - FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES (CNIN JUNE 2010)

"In this age of technology, the internet is increasingly becoming an important source of information for patients"
(Penson et al, 2002)

Many people look for health information on the web. The [2009 Pew Study](#) reported that 74% of American adults go online and 61% look online for health information. According to the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#), 72% of Australian households have home internet access and 78% of households have access to a computer. At least some palliative care patients and their families are likely to be using the internet.

The ['For Patients and Families'](#) section of CareSearch contains information and resources in recognition that palliative care will affect all of us at some stage in our lives whether as a patient, carer, family member, neighbour or friend.

Within this section there are pages on ['Finding out More'](#) which help to raise awareness of the need for patients and families to become more informed about what is happening to them. Finding out more helps people to make more informed choices and decisions. There are also pages on ['Sources of Information'](#) with links to good quality websites that provide information for consumers.

It is useful when looking for information anywhere for patients and families to ask the question: ['Is it trustworthy?'](#) Not all information available on the internet is reliable, and information is not controlled so not all of it is trustworthy and people need to know what to look for. Once information has been found, it is then helpful to find out more about ['Using Information'](#) whether for ourselves or for others.

Within this section information can also be found on ['How Research Contributes'](#) as many consumers are involved in research in one way or another.

Reference

Penson RT, Benson RC, Parles K, Chabner BA, Lynch TJ (2002) Virtual Connections: Internet Health Care *The Oncologist* 7: 555-568

CareSearch is an online resource funded by the Department of Health and Ageing to help clinicians and consumers find relevant evidence about palliative care. Available now at [CareSearch, palliative care knowledge network](#)

