

CARESEARCH PAGE PROFILE: PALLIATIVE CARE CLINICAL STUDIES COLLABORATIVE (PACCSC) (CNIN: MAY 2010)

May 20th is International Clinical Trials Day. This day celebrates the start of the first known clinical trial in 1747 when James Lind, a Navy physician, tested a series of different cures for twelve sailors sick with scurvy.

Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative (PaCCSC)

The use of medicines to help maintain quality of life during the terminal phase of a person's life is an important aspect of palliative care that is being addressed under the National Palliative Care Program. One of the four key goals of this program is to improve access to palliative care medicines in the community. The focus of this work centres on supporting access to and quality use of appropriate medicines when people are being cared for at home by making these medicines more accessible in the community setting through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

The Department of Health and Ageing has funded a Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative (PACCSC) to manage multi-site clinical drug trials in order to gather the scientific evidence required to register palliative care medicines on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods and possible listings on the PBS.

Twelve groups and services are participating in clinical trials looking at several different drugs including megesterol acetate for anorexia/loss of appetite in patients with advanced cancer; risperidone for delirium; ketamine for pain; octreotide for bowel obstruction; ondansetron for cholestatic itch and and morphine and oxycodone for breathlessness.

The PaCCSC pages include links to nineteen Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS) that detail the processes to be followed in conducting a clinical trial. . They demonstrate the planning and ongoing monitoring to ensure consistency in conducting a clinical trial. These SOPS are freely available to any individuals wishing to conduct clinical trials.

The Collaborative is building the evidence base for palliative medications that can improve practice and at the same time building clinical trials research capacity in palliative care.

Further Information

[PaCCSC: High Quality Multi-Site Research in Palliative Care](#)

Powerpoint presentation from Palliative Care Australia Conference, 2009

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 www.caresearch.com.au

