

## CLINICAL USES: Complementary Therapies (CNIN FEBRUARY 2010)

- You are working on an oncology / palliative care ward, where some patients use complementary and /or alternative therapies alongside their treatments.
- You would like to find out more about some of the therapies for yourself and your colleagues, to be able to advise patients who sometimes approach staff asking about things they have heard about.

In the [Clinical Practice](#) section pages have been written within [patient considerations](#) on [complementary therapies](#). Here, you can find information on some [Specific Complementary Therapies](#) with summaries of what is known and implications for practice. There is also an associated [PubMed Topic Search](#) on Complementary Therapies.

Information on complementary therapies is also included in the clinical practice physical symptoms [Pain](#) pages under [non-pharmacological approaches](#), and are also discussed on the [Insomnia](#) page. In the [GP Pages](#) within the [Professional Groups](#) section, downloadable and [printable patient information on complementary therapies](#) can be found in the resources area.



It is important that patients are well informed about any complementary or alternative therapies that they are currently taking or are considering.

[Living with Illness](#), in the [For patients and Families](#) section, includes pages on [Complementary Therapies](#). Here information can be found on [Some of the more Common Therapies](#) and [print resources](#) are available. These pages include links to websites where information is available regarding the evidence and issues relating to different therapies.

Within these pages are links to websites where further information is available, for example, the [Bandolier website](#) and the [Quackwatch website](#) look at the evidence and issues relating to different therapies. This is also valuable information for staff who may be asked to administer some of these therapies or medications.

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