

CareSearch Project
Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma

0039

Study Title: Dying in the Place of Choice: End of Life Care in Private Hospitals

Brief description Significant end of life care occurs in private hospitals, but due to the paucity of there is no clear understanding of the nature or scope of the care provided. This project seeks to develop a comprehensive overview of end of life care in this sector.

Objectives:

1. To investigate the nature and scope of end of life care as provided within the private hospital sector and identify the key factors influencing the type of care currently provided;
2. To identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current approaches to the provision of end of life care within the private hospital sector
3. To identify strategies for improving the level of end of life care within this setting.

Design:

Data for this study will be collected from two (2) Victorian Affinity Group hospitals that specialise in areas where terminal illness is a consequence. The methodology will be multiple embedded case studies (Yin, 2003), to allow multiple perspectives to be obtained and cross case comparisons made.

This research aims to achieve two of the strategic research objectives for 2004/5 of the Affinity Health Foundation, namely: "addressing processes of care that may lead to improved clinical outcomes" and using "clinical data sets to investigate ways of improving patient care". It will provide recognition of previously hidden work about end of life care in Australia, and highlight areas where clinical care provision could be improved.

Study Methodology: (Please mark with an x which type of study methodology)

	Epidemiology
	Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement
x	Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive
	Mixed Method
	Systematic Review
	Intervention: RCT
	Intervention: Comparative or cohort study
	Intervention: Case series

Project details:

Funding source (Optional): Affinity Health

Has the study received ethics approval?	x	Yes		No		Not applicable
-----------------------------------------	----------	-----	--	----	--	----------------

Project starting date: 31.05.05

Project completion date: 30.06.06

Multi site:	x	Yes		No		Not applicable
-------------	----------	-----	--	----	--	----------------

RESEARCHERS

Principal Investigator (name) **Professor Margaret O'Connor AM**

Contact Details Margaret.oconnor@med.monash.edu.au

Ph: 03 9904 4053

Investigator B (Name)	Dr Susan Lee
Investigator C (Name)	Dr Louise Peters
Investigator D (Name)	
Investigator E (Name)	
Associated publications / reports: "Dying in the Place of Choice: End of Life Care in Private Hospitals" Report available from Margaret O'Connor	
Topics: Settings of palliative care general, clinical service delivery	