

CareSearch Project
Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma

0045

Study Title: Epidemiological study of patterns of hospitalisation in patients who die with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Brief description of the study:

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is very common affecting between 4 and 10% of persons world-wide and is currently the sixth leading cause of death. Despite being associated with many symptoms and a poor prognosis, patients suffering this illness, unlike patients with cancer, frequently do not receive coordinated end of life care.

This study aims to examine the current care of patients with COPD in the last part of life and compare this with a cancer population. It will do this by mapping the hospitalisations of patients with COPD in the five years before death, noting patterns that emerge as well as details around the place and region of death. Comparisons will be made with a cancer population since this represents a group who would be most likely to be involved with palliative care services. Additional comparisons of hospitalisations will be made with a population of patients with COPD who do not die in the study period. This data will be accessed through the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and the Department of Human Services, Victoria.

This information will form the basis of a project to develop the most appropriate model of palliative care provision for patients with COPD.

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

Epidemiology

Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement

Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive

Mixed Method

Systematic Review

Intervention: RCT

Intervention: Comparative or cohort study

Intervention: Case series

Project details

Funding source (Optional): Bethlehem Griffiths Research Foundation

Has the study received ethics approval?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes		No		Not applicable
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Project starting date: February 2007

Project completion date: August 2008

Multi site:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes		No		Not applicable
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RESEARCHERS

Principal Investigator (name) **Dr Jennifer Philip**

Contact Details Centre for Palliative Care Education & Research
 St Vincent's and The University of Melbourne

	Jennifer.philip@svhm.org.au 03 9416 0000
Investigator B (Name)	Dr Michelle Gold
Investigator C (Name)	Dr Shane Mclver
Investigator D (Name)	Dr Belinda Miller
Investigator E (Name)	A/Prof Jo Douglass
Investigator F (Name)	Dr Vijaya Sundararajan
Investigator G (Name)	Dr Caroline Brand
Associated publications / reports:	
Topics: Respiratory symptoms and their Treatment, Non-malignant disease and comorbidities general, Settings of Palliative Care	