



The Development of Guidelines for a Palliative Approach for Aged Care in the Community Setting
THE COMPAC PROJECT

COMPAC Newsletter Number 4
October 2007

Project Progress

The COMPAC project has now been in progress for approximately 8 months. The process of developing the COMPAC documents is full-steam ahead. The findings of the initial public consultation are now finalised and a report has been produced for the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). The project staff members are working to conduct the literature review processes and the team are planning for a Guideline Development Group meeting in November.

New Reference Group Members

We have two new additions to the COMPAC Reference Group, **Mr Grant Martin** and **Ms Kay Sorimachi**, who represent the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and **Dr Kym Wendt**, who represents the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

National Public Consultation

The findings of the public consultation highlight key issues relevant to the provision of a palliative approach for aged care in the community setting. These findings have been used extensively in the project to date, and will continue to direct the development of the guideline documents. The consultative process also generated additional recommendations, these mainly pertaining to guideline implementation.

Literature Review

The domains (topic areas) for COMPAC have been established the review processes will facilitate the development of Good Practice Points and Evidence Based Clinical Practice Guidelines.

The evidence obtained from systematic reviews in the areas of Family Carer Support and Community Models of Care will be rated under National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidance and the body of evidence for each potential guideline will also be rated. Then, in cases where there is sufficient evidence, guidelines will be developed.

Good Practice Points will be developed from the narrative reviews of the literature that we are undertaking across all domains; these are likely to also reflect expert opinion and local knowledge.

Guideline Development Group Meeting

The Guideline Development Group (GDG), including the Investigators and the Project Manager, will meet in November with the Guideline Assessment Register Consultant, Dr Adele Weston (from the NHMRC) and Ms Phyl Crawford, the DoHA's representative. During this meeting the GDG will ascertain the literature that can underpin evidence based guidelines and begin to formulate draft guidelines. A second meeting is being planned for early February 2008 and will be used to complete the guideline development process as well as addressing the development of Good Practice Points and the general structure of the final COMPAC document. The plain English version of the document is scheduled for development a little later, but before mid 2008.

COMPAC Community Forums

The COMPAC project continues to have an interactive website, which provides up-to-date information about the progress of the project. Also available through the website is a community forum, in which we would continue to encourage everyone to become involved by posting relevant comments. We welcome the involvement of as many people as possible in the project. The COMPAC website is available at:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Nationalprogram/CommPAC>

Drafted Guideline for Public Comment

Due to several changes in the initial project plan, the drafted guidelines will not be released until later than previously stated. We anticipate the drafted guidelines will be released for public comment early in 2008 (late February/early March). The release will be advertised in *The Australian Newspaper* and on the COMPAC website. We have a mailing list of people who are interested in receiving a copy of the draft guidelines. If you would like to be involved or have any queries related to the COMPAC project, please contact the Project Manager Dr Jeremy Drake j.drake@ecu.edu.au or (08)9273 8941 or Project Officer Kristi Holloway k.holloway@ecu.edu.au or (08)9845 1716.