



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

**COMPAC Newsletter Number 5**  
**December 2007**

**Project Progress**

The COMPAC project has been in progression for 10 months. The development of the documents is pushing forward. The project staff members continue to work to conduct the literature review processes, including carrying out the systematic reviews that will underpin the development of evidence based guidelines. A Guideline Development Group meeting and a Reference Group teleconference were held in November.

**Literature Review**

The domains (topic areas) for COMPAC have been established and the extensive process of reviewing the relevant literature for these key domains continues. This review process will allow the development of Good Practice Points and Guidelines.

The evidence obtained from the systematic reviews is being rated under National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidance and the body of evidence for each question will also be rated. Then, in cases where there is sufficient evidence, evidence based guidelines will be developed. Good practice points and/or consensus guidelines may also be developed for these domains from the other reviews of the literature that we are also undertaking and from common sense/expert opinion.

**Guideline Development Group Meeting**

The Guideline Development Group (GDG) met in Canberra on November 6. During the meeting the GDG discussed the NHMRC requirements for externally developed guidelines. A decision was made to narrow the focus for the systematic reviews. The team will now address five key PICO questions using systematic reviews, although good practice points will be provided in other areas.



**GDG Meeting in Canberra.** (L to R) Jeremy Drake, Kristi Holloway, Meg Hegarty, Phyl Crawford, Chris Toye, Jen Tieman, David Currow, Lynn Oldham and Jenny Abbey.

A second GDG meeting is being planned for February 2008 and will be used to rate the literature from the five systematic reviews and the development of evidence based guidelines, as appropriate. The general structure of the document will also be finalised.

### **COMPAC Reference Group Teleconference**

A reference group teleconference was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. This teleconference was used to update the reference group on the project's progress and discuss the changes to the project which resulted from the GDG meeting on November 6. The draft outline of the final COMPAC document was discussed, as well as the content of some of the chapters to be included. The next Reference Group Teleconference is scheduled to follow the GDG meeting in mid-February, prior to the release of the document for public comment in March 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/ComPAC/tabid/603/Default.aspx>

### **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 in March 2008. 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](mailto:j.drake@ecu.edu.au) or (08)9273 8941 or Project Officer Kristi Holloway [k.holloway@ecu.edu.au](mailto:k.holloway@ecu.edu.au) or (08)98451716.

**The COMPAC Team would like to thank everyone for there support with the project in 2007 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year. We look forward to your continuing support and interest in the COMPAC project in 2008!**

