



FROM THE WEBSITE

Needs Assessment Tool: Progressive Disease (NAT-PD)

The [NAT-PD](#) assessment form is now available to download and print from the CareSearch website. You can also view the [Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines](#).

November Nurses[Hub]News

This edition focuses on hospital liaison and includes items on:

- > Nurses in the spotlight: [Kate Weyman](#)
- > Discussion Starter: [Hospital liaison](#)
- > Clinical Uses: [Hospital liaison](#)
- > EBP: [QI & Research: What's the difference](#)

CareSearch Review Collection

Thirteen systematic reviews or structured literature reviews were added to the CareSearch Review Collection in November 2012. Some examples are:

- > Watts T. [Initiating end-of-life care pathways: a discussion paper](#). *J Adv Nurs*. 2012 Oct;68(10):2359-70
Initiation of an end-of-life care pathway marks the transition to the terminal phase of care. This review looked at the intricacies of the decision-making process associated with initiating end-of-life care pathways. The authors concluded that nurses need not only an appreciation of end-of-life care pathways, but the complexities surrounding the decision to commence a pathway and their role within.
- > Bennett MI, Rayment C, Hjermsstad M, Aass N, Caraceni A, Kaasa S. [Prevalence and aetiology of neuropathic pain in cancer patients: a systematic review](#). *Pain*. 2012 Feb;153(2):359-65.
This review sought to identify the prevalence of neuropathic mechanisms in patients with cancer pain. The authors found that the proportion of pain caused by cancer treatment was higher in neuropathic pain compared with all types of cancer pain. They argued that a standardised approach or taxonomy for assessing neuropathic pain in patients with cancer is needed.
- > Trajkovic-Vidakovic M, de Graeff A, Voest EE, Teunissen SC. [Symptoms tell it all: a systematic review of the value of symptom assessment to predict survival in advanced cancer patients](#). *Crit Rev Oncol Hematol*. 2012 Oct;84(1):130-48.

Predicting the life expectancy of patients with advanced cancer is both important and difficult. This review looked at the research evidence about symptoms that predict the life expectancy in people with advanced cancer and related the prognostic value of these symptoms to the three stages of palliative care. Confusion, anorexia, fatigue, cachexia, weight loss, cognitive impairment, drowsiness, dyspnea, and dysphagia have been shown to be prognostic factors in >50% of the studies.

CareSearch Grey Literature

This dataset includes abstracts of Australian 'grey' literature relevant to palliative care. They provide access to work in progress, areas of reflection and development, as well as work that may not be published in traditional avenues. The following abstracts are from the recent issue of *Grief Matters*.

- > Heywood, Melissa; Hynson, Jenny
Paediatric palliative care: The challenging dimensions
- > Robyn, Reid
Motor neurone disease and palliative care
- > O'Connor, Margaret; Tan, Heather
The Addressing grief following patient death in aged-care facilities: The views of patients with mild dementia and staff

To access these abstracts or other items from the [CareSearch Grey Literature](#), enter the author's name, the abstract title, or search terms that describe your interest.

Research Studies Register

As part of our activities in developing support for research and clinical practice in palliative care, we maintain a [Research Studies Register](#) in the CareSearch website. We are making an annual request for researchers to contribute details of any Australian research projects with which they may be involved relating to palliative care that have not previously been submitted to the Register. The Research Studies Register acts not only as a summary of current research work, but also encourages awareness and interaction between researchers. A form for completion is available on the web page or can be requested by emailing caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

Funding opportunities

The Department of Health and Ageing is seeking applications for funding under the [Aged Care Service Improvement and Healthy Ageing Grants Fund](#) to support activities that strengthen the capacity of the health and aged care sectors to deliver high quality aged care and promote healthy and active ageing. Closing date is 2:00 pm on 21 December 2012.

The Department of Health and Ageing is seeking applications from operational aged care providers through a [Better Health Care Connections: Models for Short Term, More Intensive Health Care for Aged Care Recipients Program - Seed Grants](#) round. The projects will develop innovative models for short term more intensive health care services for aged care recipients. Closing date is 2:00 pm on 21 December 2012.

New PCA Resources

PCA and partners have developed new resources in [diabetes and palliative care](#) to help people with diabetes, their families and carers manage the condition whilst receiving palliative care.

Activity Based Funding Forum

PCA held a forum to discuss the challenges and opportunities the introduction of Activity Based Funding presents to the palliative care sector. The presentations are now available.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Running a project like CareSearch relies on a diverse and well qualified project team. Many users may not be aware of the people behind CareSearch. This month we introduce Andrew Lyons-Reid, a part time member of our research staff.



Andrew Lyons-Reid BA (Hons)

I have a long association with Flinders University, having completed my undergraduate studies there, followed by employment in various departments since the late 1990s.

In 2006 I took up the position of Literature Collections Assistant with CareSearch. This involved maintaining the Grey Literature Database associated with CareSearch, with 'grey' literature commonly understood as being hard to find. The database was an outcome of a prior study that had demonstrated that very little of the palliative care literature produced for conferences, journals or organisations was getting indexed in the major electronic bibliographic databases such as MEDLINE. This in turn meant that much of that material was not truly accessible. The aim has been to capture as much of this 'grey' material as possible.

My initial tasks involved updating the main database and the creation of various databases associated with copyright and author's permissions. Each year I conduct two mailouts - one for thesis material and one for 'grey' reports.

Throughout the year there are numerous palliative care conferences to attend to and also several non-indexed palliative care journals that are included in the website.

Since then I have taken on new tasks, including a new literature alert in the Newsletter. In 2011 I inherited the Review Collection and following this, the Research Studies Register. I also receive the occasional and enjoyable challenge of locating difficult to find, or obtain, literature.

It has been interesting and satisfying to have watched the growth of CareSearch over the duration of my employment. I regularly receive comments from authors whom I have contacted, about the tremendous value of the CareSearch project.

WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH?

The 1000th randomisation

PaCCSC is celebrating [1000th randomisation](#) of a participant for one of their studies. This is a significant milestone for the collaborative palliative care research group as it shows that it is possible to carry out well conducted and important RCTs in palliative care settings.

Key funding dates for 2013: now online

The updated funding calendar is available on the [NHMRC website](#).

CONFERENCES

Many fields deal with end of life issues. This is a selection of palliative care related areas holding conferences in 2013:

Conference: [Australian Pain Society 33rd Annual Scientific Meeting](#)

Dates: March 17-20 2013

Location: Canberra, Australia

Conference: [Alzheimer's Australia 15th National Conference](#)

Dates: May 14-17 2013

Location: Hobart, Tasmania

Conference: [Heart Foundation Conference](#)

Dates: May 16-18 2013

Location: Adelaide, South Australia

Conference: [8th Health Services & Policy Research Conference](#)

Dates: December 2-4 2013

Location: Wellington, New Zealand

You can continue to find information on conferences on the [Conferences Page](#) in the Education section of CareSearch.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Many services and organisations are making use of the CareSearch promotional materials and have ordered factsheets or brochures for staff, patients and for their families. Materials can also be ordered for education and training activities.

You can view all the [CareSearch promotional resources](#) on the website and download an order form. All enquiries regarding our promotional materials can be directed to caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

Don't forget you can follow what is happening on [Twitter](#).

If you are faxing promotional orders to us, please make sure you use our new fax number.

> Facsimile: (08) 7221 8238

February 2013 Newsletter

The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Monday in February 2013. If you have any items you would like to have considered for inclusion, please send details one week prior to the circulation date to caresearch@flinders.edu.au.



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