National Rollout of the Palliative Approach Toolkit for Residential Aged Care Facilities

Supporting residential aged care facility management and staff to deliver high quality palliative care for residents
PROJECT FOCUS
The National Rollout of the Palliative Approach Toolkit (PA Toolkit) for Residential Aged Care Facilities aims to strengthen the capacity of residential aged care staff to deliver high quality, evidence-based palliative care for residents by:

- Developing new clinical, educational and management resources for inclusion in, and to support the implementation of, the PA Toolkit.

- Providing training on how to use the PA Toolkit in the day-to-day provision of palliative care.

PROJECT PARTNERS
The project is led by the Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative in partnership with The Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine, Leading Age Services Australia, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the University of Queensland / Blue Care Research and Practice Development Centre.

WHY IMPLEMENT THE PA TOOLKIT?
The benefits of implementing a palliative approach using the resources in the PA Toolkit include:

- Improvement in the care of residents.
- Increased family satisfaction with the care of residents.
- Increased workforce capacity in the delivery of high quality and evidence-based palliative care.
- Alignment of care practices with Australian aged care and palliative care standards.
WHAT IS THE PA TOOLKIT?

The PA Toolkit includes a set of resources which, when used in combination, are designed to assist residential aged care providers to implement a comprehensive, evidence-based palliative approach to care for residents.

The PA Toolkit was originally developed and pilot-tested in 2009-2010 by a consortium led by the University of Queensland / Blue Care Research and Practice Development Centre. Six new resources will be added to the PA Toolkit in 2013 to further support the implementation of a palliative approach to care in residential aged care.

The new PA Toolkit resources will be available on the project website (www.caresearch.com.au/PAToolkit) from October 2013. Commonwealth approved residential aged care providers attending a training workshop will be able to order a hard copy of the PA Toolkit.

“The PA Toolkit is a comprehensive ‘how to’ guide featuring a step by step approach to implementing a new model of palliative care. It includes policies and procedures, education and training for staff.”

A/Prof Deborah Parker, Director, University of Queensland / Blue Care Research & Practice Development Centre
WHAT’S IN THE PA TOOLKIT?

• Module 1: Integrating a palliative approach
• Module 2: Key processes
  - Advance care planning
  - Palliative care case conferencing
  - End of life care pathway
• Module 3: Clinical care
  - Pain
  - Dyspnoea
  - Nutrition and hydration
  - Oral care
  - Delirium
• 3 self-directed learning packages (Nurse Introduction, Nurse Advanced, Careworker Introduction)
• Training Support Guide
• Workplace Implementation Guide
• Guide to Establishing a Medication Imprest System to Manage End of Life (Terminal) Symptoms
• 3 educational DVDs covering a palliative approach, palliative care case conferencing and how to use an end of life care pathway
• Educational flipcharts for careworkers on implementing a palliative approach, palliative symptom management and clinical care
• Bereavement Support Booklet for Residential Aged Care Staff
• Therapeutic Guidelines: Palliative Care, Version 3, 2010
• Understanding the dying process brochure
• Now what? Understanding grief, Palliative Care Australia brochure
• Invitation and family questionnaire – palliative care case conferences
• Guidelines for a Palliative Approach in Residential Aged Care order form
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
A series of one-day workshops will be held across Australia as part of the national rollout to train residential aged care staff on how to use the PA Toolkit resources to support their day-to-day delivery of high quality palliative care. These workshops will be:

• Delivered in all Australian States and Territories between October 2013 and December 2014.
• Facilitated by experts in the implementation of an evidence-based palliative approach in residential aged care settings.

Post-workshop follow up and support will be available to all residential aged care providers participating in the national rollout training sessions.

Training opportunities specifically tailored for GPs will also be provided.

Visit the project website for further information about specific training opportunities in your State or Territory: www.caresearch.com.au/PAToolkit.

DEFINITION: A PALLIATIVE APPROACH
When the resident’s condition is not amenable to cure and the symptoms of the disease require effective symptom management, a palliative approach is appropriate. Providing active treatment for the resident’s disease may also still be important and may be provided concurrently with a palliative approach. However, the primary goal of a palliative approach is to improve the resident’s level of comfort and function, and to address their psychological, spiritual and social needs.

FURTHER INFORMATION
For further information about the PA Toolkit project and training opportunities please visit the project website at www.caresearch.com.au/PAToolkit or contact:

Gillian Davies
Project Manager
National Rollout of the PA Toolkit for RACFs
Email: patoolkit@health.qld.gov.au
Phone: 07 3169 9876

PROJECT NEWSLETTER
To sign up to receive the free project newsletter visit the project website at www.caresearch.com.au/PAToolkit

June 2013

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
The National Rollout of the Palliative Approach Toolkit for Residential Aged Care Facilities project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing under the Encouraging Better Practice in Aged Care (EBPAC) Initiative.