CARESEARCH®
palliative care knowledge network

Practical help to assist you to support hospital patients with palliative care needs

Acute Care pack contents

When a cure is not possible the pivot to palliative care with its focus on quality of life is appropriate. Increasing demands on hospitals to provide support for people approaching the end of their life means all health professionals will need to help with palliative care.

This resource pack will assist you and your team in caring for hospital patients approaching the end of their life, as well as assist their families and caregivers.

A guide to using CareSearch for acute care health professionals
Find the most relevant information for those working in acute care.

Prognostication and triage tools list
A list of freely available tools to assist in the identification of patients with palliative care needs in the acute care setting.

Recognising the need for palliative care – tools to help you identify changes
The SPICT tools can be used to systematically assess for deterioration in a person's health and to identify unmet supportive and palliative care needs.
- SPICT Tool
- SPICT4ALL Tool

Communication tools
Communication with patients at end-of-life is essential for planning and decision-making. It can also be hard. These forms help to initiate conversations.
- The Nurse Mnemonic
- SPIKES: A six-step protocol for delivering bad news

Detecting delirium
Delirium is common in palliative care patients and may be reversible, but it is often undiagnosed. The Confusion Assessment Method (CAM) Shortened Version Worksheet can be used with older people to determine if they should be assessed.

Access to palliative care professional support
In-hospital access to specialist palliative care services can be limited. A list of State and Territory telephone services providing information, support, and advice in palliative care can help.

End-of-Life Essentials Education (EOLE) for acute care health professionals
Information on the free EOLE online course in palliative care developed for health professionals working in the Australian acute care setting.

To obtain further copies of this pack or other resource packs developed by CareSearch: Download or order printed copies at caresearch.com.au/resourcepacks

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