

A guide to using CareSearch for acute care health professionals

Patients who identify as requiring end-of-life care (within the last 12 months of life) and those in the terminal phase of life where death is imminent and likely within hours or days, or occasionally weeks, are frequently cared for in acute care. Half of all deaths in Australia occur in a hospital. All health professionals need skills in palliative care with its focus on quality of life.

CareSearch can help you to provide palliative care with practical evidence-based information about:

- Key guidelines that define and guide [palliative care within the acute care setting](#) including your responsibilities as a health professional.
- [Recognising the need for palliative care](#) with the use of validated tools.
- [Responding to patient needs](#) as their physical, psychosocial, cultural, and spiritual care needs change over time.
- [Searching for evidence](#) to answer clinical and service-related questions.
- [Planning for palliative care provision](#) that integrates with local processes to provide quality care and optimal [patient transitions and coordination of care](#).
- [Teamwork](#) and how referral to other providers with different roles and scopes of practice can contribute to optimal patient care.
- Effective [communication and shared decision-making](#) skills to ensure patients and their family are informed and included.
- Supporting families and carers by providing [grief and bereavement care](#).
- Accessing [palliative care education](#) tailored to health professionals working within the acute care setting.

For more resources visit [CareSearch Acute Care](#)

