CARESEARCH®
palliative care knowledge network

CareSearch for nurses providing palliative care in the community

With increasing numbers of people with chronic illness and older people approaching the end of their life, all health professionals will need to help with palliative care. Often this will be in the community setting.

To help nurses provide community-based palliative care, we have brought together this pack of resources.

Nurses pack contents

A guide to using CareSearch for Nurses
Relevant CareSearch information for nurses working in the community.

Recognising the need for palliative care – tools to help you identify changes
It can be more difficult to notice subtle changes in a regular client's condition. Use these tools to assess for deterioration and to identify unmet supportive and palliative care needs:
- SPICT Tool
- SPICT4ALL Tool
- NAT-PD Tool

Communication with patients, carers, and families
Communication with patients at end of life is essential for planning and decision-making. It can also be hard. This sheet has tips on what to say and how.

Abbey Pain scale
Pain is one of the most common symptoms in palliative care. You can use this form to monitor for changes in pain status.

Needs Assessment Tool for Carers of People with a Chronic condition (NAT-CC)
You can give this form to clients to work out their needs as carers to discuss with their GP.

Medicines from the PBS prescriber's bag for terminal phase symptoms
A practical list of medicines that can be used for responding to unanticipated needs in the terminal phase.

Support for nurses responding to grief, bereavement, and loss
Reactions to the death of a loved one vary. Simple reassurance can be helpful, and it can also help identify any grief concerns they may have and the need for referral.

Personal and professional practice
- Self-care plan for nurses – to care for others you need to care for yourself
- MBS items for nurse practitioners

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

caresearch.com.au

Flinders University