Palliative Care Prognosis and Triage Tools

CARESEARCH®

palliative care knowledge network

These tools assist health professionals in the acute setting to identify patients with palliative care needs. They support but do not replace clinical judgement and effective use requires collaboration and a multidisciplinary approach.

Triage

RUN-PC

Responding to Urgency of Need in Palliative Care (RUN-PC) is an online triage calculator that aids in prioritising patient referral to specialist palliative care services.

- For inpatient unit setting, hospital consultation setting, or community setting.
- Based on 7 items across physical, psychosocial, and caregiver domains.
- Takes approximately 5 minutes to complete.

SPEED

Screen for Palliative and End-of-life care needs in the Emergency Department (SPEED).

- For patients with cancer in the emergency department setting.
- Based on 13 questions across: social, therapeutic, physical, psychological, and spiritual symptom domains.

Prognosis

The Surprise Question

Would you be surprised if your patient died in the next 6 to 12 months?

- For identification of changing needs in patients with advanced disease or progressive life limiting conditions.
- Single question.

caresearch.com.au

Flinders University

SPICT / SPICT4ALL

Supportive and Palliative Care IndicatorsTool (SPICT) helps identify people with one or more general indicators of poor or deteriorating health and clinical signs of life-limiting conditions for assessment and care planning.

- Comprises 6 general indicators of deteriorating health and increasing care needs, including trigger events.
- Takes approximately 5 – 9 minutes to complete.
- SPICT4ALL is a plain language version of SPICT.

NAT-PD

Needs Assessment Tool: Progressive Disease (NAT-PD) is for both generalist and specialist settings. The tool can assist in matching the types and levels of need experienced by people with progressive chronic diseases (e.g. cancer, heart failure, COPD) and their caregivers with the most appropriate people or services to address those needs.

- Comprises 73 questions that can be completed by health professionals across a range of disciplines.

Gold Standards Framework - Proactive Identification Guidance (GSF-PIG)

This stepped framework helps clinicians to identify patients early based on general and condition specific indicators, assess needs and wishes, and plan care tailored to the patients' choices.

- It uses 3 triggers to identify patients nearing end of life: Surprise Question; general indicators of decline; and specific clinical indicators related to certain conditions.
- Helps with predicting needs. Not an exact prognostication.

AKPS

The Australian-modified Karnofsky Performance Scale (AKPS) is a measure of a patient's overall ability to undertake activities of daily living. In advanced cancer this has prognostic significance.

- A single score between 10 and 100 is assigned by a clinician, based on observing a patient's ability to perform everyday activity, work and self-care tasks.
- A score of less than 40 correlates to a median survival of around 3 months for patients with advanced cancer.