

*CareSearch: Enabling  
Nurses in Evidence  
Based Practice (EBP)*

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# CareSearch and EBP

- CareSearch is a website that enables access to palliative care information and evidence.
- CareSearch is also part of the knowledge network project that encourages and supports the application of evidence to practice.

# Supporting Nurses in EBP

- CareSearch has developed a resource to help support nurses with the application of evidence to practice
- CareSearch Nurses Information Newsletter (CNIN) has been produced monthly since October 2008

# Supporting Nurses in EBP

- CNIN is distributed electronically but is also kept on the website for easy access
- It comprises an email with links through to 3 information sheets
  - Evidence based practice
  - Clinical uses
  - CareSearch page profile

# Background to CNIN

- CNIN was developed in response to informal feedback and requests at both the PCA (2007) and PCNA (2008) conferences.
- Two formal surveys administered to specialist palliative care services in 2007 and 2008\* also contributed to the development of this resource.
- HREC approval was received from the University of Wollongong for these surveys

# Background to CNIN

- In the 2008 survey some nurses admitted to difficulty in searching for research evidence (Samsa et al, 2008)
  - 39.1% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they have difficulty in searching for new evidence
  - 57.5% of respondents agreed that workload is an obstacle to keeping up to date with all the new evidence.

# Searching for Evidence

- Guyatt and colleagues talk of the skills needed to provide an evidence based solution, including:

*“constructing and conducting an efficient search to locate the best evidence “*

# Time Factor

- *‘The process of locating, appraising and appropriately integrating research evidence into practice is so time-consuming that were practitioners to seriously engage in this they would be unable to meet their clinical obligations’. (White and Taylor, 2002)*
- *“Time during working hours is definitely a factor. Working part time means I do most of my information searching in my own time” (anonymous respondent) (Samsa et al, 2008)*

White R and Taylor S. Nursing practice should be informed by the best available evidence, but should all first-level nurses be competent at research appraisal and utilization? *Nurse Education Today* (2002), 22, 220±224

Samsa P, Fildes D and Marcolin S (2008) *Evaluating CareSearch 2: Website visitors and those working in specialist palliative care services. Centre for Health Service Development*, University of Wollongong.



# CNIN

- CNIN aims to help:
  - answer day to day clinical questions using CareSearch
  - develop a knowledge base regarding evidence, research and literature in and about palliative care
  - build familiarity with CareSearch content and resources
  - facilitate easier access to relevant evidence for time poor nurses

# CNIN NAG

## CNIN National Advisory Group

- Since 2009 the topic selection for the information sheets has been guided by an Advisory Group (CNINNAG).
- This group also ensures that the information sheets are relevant to nurses and are of high quality.

## CNIN Evaluation

- From its' inception in October 2008 there are now over 650 people registered to receive the monthly electronic newsletter.
- CareSearch and University of Wollongong conducted an evaluation of CNIN earlier in 2010 (Fildes and Samsa, 2010)
  - A CNIN on-line survey
  - A CNIN telephone interview

## CNIN Evaluation: On-line responses

- 94 respondents (64 were registered users of CNIN) (11% response rate)
- 54% were aged over 50 years
  - 43% were between 50 and 59 years
  - 11% were aged over 60 years

# CNIN Evaluation

## How CNIN is used:

- Increase my knowledge 83%
- Improve my own practice 68%
- Use in workplace 54%
- Share with colleagues 50%
- Teaching /training sessions 41%
- Handouts 19%
- Include in newsletters 7%

## CNIN Evaluation

- 47% had used information in CNIN to assist them to make changes in practice
  - Of these respondents, 65% made changes to the practice of the organisation and 35% to their individual practice

## CNIN Evaluation

- The most widely used information sheets that are released with CNIN are:
  - Clinical Uses 71%
  - Evidence Based Practice 61%

## Website statistics

- In the first 3 months of 2010, an average of 164 CNIN pages were downloaded each week from the website
- This demonstrates clearly that this is a widely used resource that nurses find valuable in their day to day work.



## Nurses Hub

- This PCNA conference sees the launch of the Nurses hub
  - A collection of information, tools and resources that form a ‘hub’ of knowledge to provide practical support to caring for palliative patients in any setting of care and that is relevant to palliative care nursing



## Nurses Hub

The Nurses Hub will also have a 'new look' newsletter with a focus on:

nurses news, nurses knowledge

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## Nurses News

Stay in touch with what's new in the hub, the nursing community and the CareSearch website. Sign up for the Nurses Hub news.

- > [What's New for Nurses](#)  
News items from the community and from CareSearch
- > [nurses \[Hub\] news](#)  
Newsletter for nurses from August 2010
- > [CNIN \(CareSearch Nurses Information Newsletter\)](#)  
Newsletter for nurses until July 2010



**What's New...**  
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## The newsletter will have a combination of news and knowledge:

- An issue in EBP
- An issue in Clinical Practice
- A discussion starter sheet
- A guest author talking on a subject of interest and relevance to nurses
- A 'news sheet' each month with updates on what's new

# Summary

- The CareSearch Nurses Information Newsletter (CNIN) has proven to be a valuable resource for nurses to support them in EBP
- The revised nurses [HUB] news will continue where CNIN left off

CareSearch would like to thank the many people who contribute their time and expertise to the project including members of the National Advisory Group and the Knowledge Network Management Group.

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