‘Search Filters’: Helping get evidence into practice

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Outline

• About CareSearch
• Literature, evidence and research
• Challenges in finding literature
• Why a search filter?
• Developing search filters
About CareSearch

• Palliative care resource
  – Evidence based
  – Online

• Audience
  – Health professional
  – Patients, carers, families

• Funded by DoHA
Literature, evidence and research

• Research
  – What is known to be effective

• Evidence
  – Clinical decisions
  – Policy making
  – Service delivery

• Literature
  – Mechanism for making research available
Challenges in finding literature

- Published?
- In a bibliographic database?
- Indexed? Thesaurus?
- Rights to access?
- Specific interface
- Skills of searcher
Why a search filter?

• “Evidence based" search = known effectiveness

• Benefits
  – Saves time
  – Increases likelihood of quality retrievals
  – Removes individual search burden
  – Embeds technical expertise
  – Facilitates knowledge translation
How do you develop a search filter?

• Not an expert search
  – Research activity

• Requirements
  – Expert Advisory Group
  – Filter Development Process

• PubMed
Expert Advisory Group

• Ensure clinical/functional utility

• Tasks
  – Study parameters
  – Term identification and term priority
  – Most appropriate gold standard
  – Post hoc relevance assessment
Filter Development

• Gold Standard
• Term Selection
• Search Testing
• Post hoc relevance
PubMed

• Why PubMed?
  – Open access, free to use
  – Hyperlinking

• Translation
  – Equivalence study: Indexed Set
  – Missing items study: Non-indexed Set

• Search URLs
As easy as 1-2-3
CareSearch Search Filters

• Current Filters
  – Palliative care
  – Heart failure
  – Lung cancer, NSCLC and SCLC
  – Primary health care

• Coming soon
  – Residential aged care facilities
  – Dementia
  – Bereavement
Outcomes

• Usage
  – Each PCF PubMed search is used between 3 and 20 times per day

• PCF Effectiveness Study
  – Clinician searches are basic
  – PCF outperforms clinicians searches
  – PubMed searches identified literature the health professionals hadn’t found
Conclusion

Search filters support knowledge use:

- Known retrieval
- Facilitated access
- Continuous currency
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