FROM THE WEBSITE

New content

New palliative care information for nurses in honour of National Palliative Care Week

To mark National Palliative Care Week 2014 and to acknowledge the wide role that nurses play in providing palliative care, CareSearch has completely revised its Nurses Hub and has added several pages of new content. Every page has been reviewed, updated, and re-written with the guidance and support of an advisory group.

New Sheets for Carers

CareSearch is committed to providing trustworthy and easy-to-understand palliative care information for the community. To help carers identify and find support, CareSearch is producing and distributing a set of information sheets that focus on carers and families. The first sheet helps people in caring situations realise that they are caring.

International Nurses Day 2014

Each year, the International Council of Nurses chooses a theme for International Nurses Day discussions. The theme for 2014 was ‘Nurses: A force for change – A vital resource for health’, and CareSearch produced a special factsheet on research, evidence and quality improvement, three main approaches by which patient care and outcomes can be improved.

Related Content

Smarter Searching

CareSearch and Flinders Filters, with assistance from HCN and ALIA, have developed a Smarter Searching module to enhance literature search techniques for librarians and researchers (especially in the health sector) who are interested in developing and testing their search strategies.

CareSearch Newsletters

nurses[HUB]news - May 2014

The May 2014 Nurses HUB newsletter is now available. Find out about:

> Case Study: Care at Home
> Pharmacy Update: Hyoscine BUTYl bromide
> Service Profile: The Specialist Palliative Care Service North West Tasmania
> Project Summary: An investigation into the impact of case conferences on end-of-life care

Alliedhealth[HUB]news - May 2014

The May 2014 edition of the Allied Health newsletter is now available. In this edition led by Rebecca Smith (Speech Pathologist), you will find out about:

> Case Study: Bill (Speech Pathology)
> Profile: Kiernan Daisy D’Isernia (Speech Pathologist)

CareSearch Review Collection

Twelve systematic reviews were added to the Review Collection in May 2014. They included:


The aim of this systematic review was to investigate whether patients with cognitive impairment were included in studies on pharmacological prophylaxis or treatment of delirium. A further aim of this review was to explore the motivations for any exclusions, in the event that patients with cognitive impairment were found to have been removed from a study. Of the 31 included studies, only five explicitly included information on the percentage of included patients with cognitive impairment. The most common motivation for exclusion was found to be the influence of dementia on delirium. The authors argue that patient exclusion hampers the generalisability of trial results and means that clinicians are denied clinical evidence about pharmacological treatments for a group of vulnerable patients.


Although an integral component of the dying process and quality end-of-life care, death preparedness has not been fully defined or conceptualised. The aim of this study was to report on the analysis within peer-reviewed literature. Thirty-four articles informed the review. The authors suggest that death preparedness involves a transition through facilitated communication leading to awareness and/or acceptance of the end of life where an end of life plan represents a form of acceptance.

The aim of this systematic review was to explore the financial costs and the financial impact of caring for family members receiving palliative/end-of-life care. Seven electronic databases were searched for articles relating, amongst other things, to financial costs or implications of family caregiving at the end of life. Twenty-one articles were considered relevant for inclusion. Although the evidence relating to the costs and implications of caregiving was relatively limited, the results indicated that financial costs of caring for someone at the end of life are substantial. The authors argue that research is urgently needed to address this evidence gap.


Geriatric patients, particularly those with dementia, are likely to benefit from the multiple perspectives and the teamwork provided by interprofessional team-based care. This review examines patient and provider outcomes related to interprofessional education in dementia. Sixteen studies met the criteria for inclusion. The authors indicated that interprofessional dementia education has the potential to provide improved knowledge and attitudes for staff and to improve patient outcomes. Interventions that include structural reforms within institutions may also have the potential to sustain long-term change in practice.

CareSearch Grey Literature
This dataset includes abstracts of Australian ‘grey’ literature relevant to palliative care. They provide access to work in progress, areas of reflection and development, as well as work that may not be published in traditional avenues.

The following abstracts are from the 2014 Palliative Care Nurses Conference.

Devilee, Linda; Currow, David; Doogue, Mathew; Rowett, Debra Participating in palliative care clinical research: RAPID makes it easy

Preston, Elizabeth Bereavement support for people with intellectual disabilities

Virdun, Claudia; Phillips, Jane; Luckett, Tim Dying in the acute care setting: What do patients and caregivers consider important for optimal end-of-life care?

To access these abstracts or other items, go to the Simple Searching page of the CareSearch Grey Literature Database and enter the author’s name, the abstract title, or search terms that describe your interest.

CARESEARCH RESEARCH PROJECTS
CareSearch has led or been involved with a wide range of research projects over the last three years covering a diverse range of topics, from telehealth or carer attitudes to knowledge use and bibliometrics. This has enabled us to support innovations for use within the website, create new knowledge around palliative care, and contribute expertise to other research groups. Each month we will provide a brief overview of one of our research studies and its relationship to the project.

Review of methods used to assess the effectiveness of healthcare information websites

Investigators: Tieman JJ, Bradley S

Project Aim(s): The objective of this systematic review was to identify evaluation methods used to assess the effectiveness of healthcare information websites as reported in the literature.

Study Overview: A literature search of the Ovid SP database was conducted on 7 February 2012. The search comprised two constructs: website and evaluation. The findings of this review show that diverse evaluation methods were used to measure the effectiveness of healthcare websites. These evaluation methods were used during development, before release, and after release. Economic assessment was rare and most evaluations looked at content issues, such as readability scores. To assess the effectiveness of knowledge transfer of healthcare information through the online environment, a project team needs to use multiple methods and evaluation needs to be undertaken at various stages of the website development process and during maturity.

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What’s New in the Palliative Care Community?

Australian government funds palliative care services and training
The Australian Government will provide $52 million over three years to improve palliative care services and training. The funding will continue to support education and training opportunities in palliative care for health professionals, and promote the importance of advance care planning.

A Resolution passed unanimously at the 67th session of the World Health Assembly in May 2014 will encourage all member states to take a greater interest in palliative care.

World Health Assembly progress on non-communicable diseases and traditional medicine
A resolution passed unanimously at the 67th session of the World Health Assembly in May 2014 will encourage all member states to take a greater interest in palliative care. The resolution calls on all member states to:

- Develop, strengthen and implement palliative care policies
- Support palliative care initiatives including education and training, quality improvement and availability of medicines essential for the provision of palliative care
- Provide support to caregivers
- Include palliative care as a part of integrated training for all healthcare workers who routinely work with people with serious illness
- Ensure access to essential medications
- Foster partnerships between government and civil society to increase access to palliative care

Carers have vital role in supporting patient’s choice in where to die
Australia’s family and friend carers are crucial to supporting the preference to die at home, but need access to palliative care services which work with carers and understand the demands of end-of-life care. Carers Australia has released a discussion paper, ‘Dying at home: Preferences and the role of unpaid carers’. It discusses the role of carers in providing end-of-life care in the home, and identifies the types of support they need.

World Health Statistics 2014
This global report contains WHO’s annual compilation of health-related data for its member states. It also includes highlight summaries on recent trends in both life expectancy and premature deaths; and on the crucial role of civil registration and vital statistics systems in national and global advancement.

PaCCSC Research Report 2006-2014
The report details the eight year journey of PaCCSC from inception in 2006 through to current activities in 2014. Information on the clinical research studies, results and achievements of the collaborative are all contained in the report.

Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR) Review
A review of the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR) examines issues with the existing system including: complexity, expectations and governance, recommending changes to increase use and bring forward the delivery of benefits and savings.
PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Many services and organisations are making use of the CareSearch promotional materials and have ordered factsheets or brochures for staff, patients and for their families. Materials can also be ordered for education and training activities.

There is also a suite of resources related to Residential Aged Care Facilities that palliative care staff may want to make available to their aged care colleagues. A new set of allied health resources are available, including:

- Allied Health and Palliative Care (Fact sheet)
- CareSearch Allied Health Hub (Fact sheet)
- CareSearch Allied Health Hub: FAQs (Fact sheet)
- Using CareSearch (Fact sheet)
- Allied Health Poster (A3 Poster)
- Allied Health Order Form

You can view all the CareSearch promotional resources on the website and download an order form. All enquiries regarding our promotional materials can be directed to caresearch@flinders.edu.au.

Don’t forget you can follow what is happening on Twitter.

If you are faxing promotional orders to us, our fax number is (08) 7221 8238.

July 2014 Newsletter

The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Monday in July 2014. If you have any items you would like to have considered for inclusion, please send details one week prior to the circulation date to caresearch@flinders.edu.au.