

Hide and Seek: Finding palliative care literature

Jennifer Tieman, David Currow, Ruth Sladek
CareSearch Project

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Role of evidence and literature

- Improve patient outcome through treatments and care practices (e.g. drugs or procedures)
- Develop and improve services (e.g. palliative care case conference or nurse practitioner)
- Support equity and access to healthcare (e.g. special needs groups)

Hide and seek: How things are hidden

- Not all research and thought is published
- Not all journals are indexed
- Not all journals are publicly available (subscription requirements)
- Not all work is published in books and journals (e.g. online publishing)
- Not everyone has online access

Hide and seek: Issues in searching

- Why you are searching – comprehensive retrieval, answer a specific clinical question
- Where you search (1)
Google vs. bibliographic databases
- Where you search (2)
Multiple bibliographic databases and search interfaces (e.g. Embase vs. PsycINFO; PubMed vs. Ovid Medline)
- How you search
Specific journals only
Keywords, textwords, filters

Bibliographic study 1: Conference conversion

- Convenience sample
- Conference abstract details against 4 bibliographic databases
- Conversion rate was 15.9% cf. industry standard of 45%
- 213 published articles were found in 78 separate journals

Bibliographic study 2: Non indexed journal articles

- 12 specialty journals
- Items from first publication to July 2002 checked against 4 bibliographic databases
- 90% indexed.
- Not indexed included 410 (5%) that were research or commentary.
- Some non-indexed items occurred after journal was being indexed (idiosyncratic non-indexing)

- ## Bibliographic Study 3: Validating a palliative care filter for use in general biomedical literature
- Gold standard set of palliative articles by hand search of 4 journals across 3 years
 - 4% of items in general biomedical as relevant to palliative care
 - Developed a palliative care filter of keywords (index terms) and textwords
 - Best performing search retrieved only 45.4% of hand identified items

Master Search

- exp advance care planning/
- exp attitude to death/
- exp bereavement/
- death/
- hospices/
- life support care/
- palliative care/
- exp terminal care/
- terminally ill/
- palliat\$.tw.
- hospice\$.tw.
- “terminal care”.tw.
- 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 or 11 or 12

Bibliographic studies 4: In progress

- Refining and enhancing the palliative care filter
- Looking at the performance of palliative care filter in speciality journals
- Mapping literature relevant to palliative care in terms of contribution of journals and databases

So what does this mean?

1. Palliative care has specific hide and seek issues. Literature can be difficult to find. Diffuse across many databases and grey literature
2. Comprehensive retrieval requires thought and attention. Language to describe, index and retrieve is developing
3. Possibly relevant material in general biomedical, palliative specialty and non-palliative specialty journals

Finding literature 1: CareSearch

- PubMed searches by topic and level of evidence
- Palliative care filter able to be uploaded into PubMed so you can add a specific topic
- Guide to searching effectively
- Non-indexed databases (Australia's missing palliative care literature)
- Links and Research Studies Register

CareSearch home page - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by RGH - Daw Park

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address: http://www.caresearch.com.au/home/Default.aspx

Go Links McAfee SiteAdvisor

CareSearch

Home National program Patients & carers Non-indexed databases Finding evidence Research & Grants Care providers Education Forums

Login Contact Us

Search

Welcome to CareSearch. CareSearch is an online resource of palliative care information and evidence. All materials included in this website are reviewed for quality and relevance.

- About us
- Acknowledgement
- Contact us
- Finding your way in CareSearch
 - Content index
 - Site map
- What's new on CareSearch
- What's new in the palliative care community
- Have you heard?
- Viewing PDFs
- Accessibility
- Credits
- Copyright and authority
- Terms and conditions
- Site disclaimers
- Privacy statement

For Patients, Carers, Families & Friends

Palliative care will affect all of us at some stage in our lives as a patient, carer, family member, neighbour or friend. The following resources may help.

*For Patients
For Carers
For Families & Friends
State Based Resources
National Palliative Care Program*

For Health Care Providers

There are different disciplines and individuals involved in providing palliative care. These resources provide information and resources for health care professionals.

*General Practitioners
Health Care Providers
Education and Training
National Palliative Care Program
PubMed Searches*

For Researchers and Palliative Specialists

Palliative care researchers and palliative care specialists may benefit from a range of specific resources and tools including:

*Non-indexed Database
Finding Evidence
Research and Grants
PubMed Searches
Research Data
Management System
Conferences
Care Providers*

QUICK LINKS

- GP pages
- Patients & Carers
- PubMed Palliative Care Searches
- CareSearch eNews
- Project News
- Indigenous Resources

We comply with the HONcode standard for health trust worthy information: **verify here**

What's new on the site... CareSearch promotional materials... Indigenous Resources... click for more

What's new in the Palliative Care Community... Communicating prognosis guidelines...NHMRC National Statement Information Sessions ... click for more

Have you heard?... CareSearch visitor numbers and community feedback

By using this site you are agreeing to the terms and conditions of this site

The CareSearch website and the Australian Palliative Care Knowledge Network project are funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

start | Inbox - Microsoft ... | July e-News 2007 ... | Canon IP5300 - US... | GP Work | GP generic presen... | Standard presenta... | CareSearch home ... | EN | 3:56 PM

FINDING EVIDENCE

DATABASES & INFORMATION SOURCES
 Bibliographic & evidence databases
 Full text journals
 Links to lists of databases & sources
 Subscription based databases

SEARCH STRATEGIES
 PubMed palliative care searches
 PubMed General searches
 Validated palliative care search
 Ovid Medline version
 PubMed version
 Ovid Medline searches

GUIDE TO SEARCHING EFFECTIVELY
 Developing a search strategy
 Textword searching
 How database subject indexing works
 Combining searches
 combining searches example
 Palliative care subject headings
 Samples searches
 Searching tips for bibliographic databases

PubMed palliative care searches

These searches are designed to give you immediate access to subject-specific literature available in PubMed. When you select a search, PubMed retrieves current citations from the biomedical literature databases maintained by the National Library of Medicine. **(See NCBI disclaimer and copyright notice)**

Typically searches use 1-2 key medical subject headings and text words, and are restricted to palliative care. Eight different search variations per subject are available to help you explore the literature. A sensitive search is a broad search, whereas a specific search is narrower. All searches have been restricted to English language, and to humans.

They are a good starting point but they are not comprehensive, and have not been validated. After searching, always check the PubMed 'details' tag on the screen to verify that you are satisfied with the approach taken. You can then modify the search if required. Some searches may currently yield zero results, but this should change over time as new citations are added to PubMed.

Search Topic	Retrieve References	Retrieve References Restricted to Free Full Text Only	Systematic Reviews Only ¹	Systematic Reviews Restricted to Free Full Text Only	RCTs Only ²
Advance Directives	<i>Sensitive</i>	<i>Sensitive</i>	<i>Systematic Review</i>	<i>Systematic Review</i>	<i>Sensitive</i>
	<i>Specific</i>	<i>Specific</i>			<i>Specific</i>
Anorexia	<i>Sensitive</i>	<i>Sensitive</i>	<i>Systematic Review</i>	<i>Systematic Review</i>	<i>Sensitive</i>
	<i>Specific</i>	<i>Specific</i>			<i>Specific</i>
Bereavement	<i>Sensitive</i>	<i>Sensitive</i>	<i>Systematic Review</i>	<i>Systematic Review</i>	<i>Sensitive</i>
	<i>Specific</i>	<i>Specific</i>			<i>Specific</i>



NON-INDEXED DATABASE

Search the literature database

Understanding the evaluation schema
[Evaluator login](#)

Non indexed journals

[Grief Matters](#)
[Social Networks](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

Search The Literature Database

Search the Literature Database

The literature database comprises four sections:

- [Journal articles](#): Abstracts of articles from 12 palliative care journals that have not been indexed in the major electronic databases
- [Conference abstracts](#): Abstracts from Australian conferences from 1980 that deal with issues in palliative care
- [Theses](#): Masters and PhD theses from Australian universities that deal with issues in palliative care
- [Grey Literature](#): Government documents, policy and research reports from agencies involved with palliative care.

Keywords Or Phrases:

Boolean Logic

Fields To Search:

Title Author Abstract Keywords ALL

Order By:

Date Author AbstractID Title

Publication Year:

From: To:

Type Of Literature:

Journal Conference ALL
 Article Abstract
 Thesis Government Grey

Finding literature 2: CS_{pckn}

- CareSearch Version 2 in May 2008
- Refined palliative care filter
- PubMed searches in summary and also as extension to content pages
- Evidence overview (SR level)
- Non-indexed databases, research studies register and finding evidence section

Finding literature 3: Other sources

- PubMed
- NeLH palliative and supportive services
- BMJ Clinical Evidence
- TRIP
- St Basillisa's
- Shaare Zedek Cancer Pain and Palliative Medicine Reference Database
- Cochrane library through NICS

Finding literature 4: For the seriously afflicted

- Google (Advanced features e.g. edu.au)
- Google Scholar
- Grey literature (FADE and New York Academy of Medicine)
- Pod casts (Journal junkie, ABC Health Report, John Hopkins medical podcasts)
- Australian resources (AMI, Informit)

Practical suggestions:

- If you use Google learn how to critically evaluate a website
- If you want a quick immediate search, try running a prewritten search via CareSearch Or use PubMed with filters
- If you want or need comprehensive retrieval
 - Search more than one database
 - Don't look only in palliative specialty journals
 - Use the palliative care search filter or multiple search terms
 - Understand the variation in search interfaces (e.g. .tw. vs. .mp.)
 - Become familiar with grey literature resources and research in progress resources

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KNOWLEDGE NETWORK PROJECT DAW HOUSE 700 GOODWOOD ROAD DAW PARK SA 5041

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