The Australian Palliative Care Knowledge Network

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CareSearch Project

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OSWA Conference 2007
Knowledge, evidence and practice

• Improve patient outcome through treatments and care practices (e.g. drugs or procedures)
• Develop and improve services (e.g. palliative care service or diabetes community nurse)
• Support equity and access to healthcare (e.g. special needs groups)

Presumes that we have access to and use relevant information and evidence
Issues relating to evidence and palliative care

- Palliative care is an emerging discipline
  - Multidisciplinary base
  - Different care providers and site of care
  - Patient and family as unit of care
  - Bereavement, grief and loss
  - Transitions and movements

- Evidence development can be difficult
  - Historical and social barriers to doing research with death and dying
  - Lack of a research culture, infrastructure
  - Funding difficulties
  - Clinical load of staff
  - Methodological considerations
What is CareSearch?

• A website, a project and a resource for those involved in providing palliative care
• Funded by Department of Health and Ageing
• “One stop” shop for palliative care information, evidence and resources
• Website as both a product and an entry point
• Designed for those providing palliative care and those affected by palliative care.
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.

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
- Research and Grants
- Pubmed Searches
- Research Data Management System
- Conferences
- Care Providers

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
Behind the website: Quality processes and research

• Needs assessment
• Governance structures
• Quality manual
• Knowledge translation approaches
• Formative and summative evaluation program
Sections in the current website

• National Palliative care program
• Patients and carers
• Non-indexed databases
• Finding evidence
• Research and grants
• Care providers
• Education
• Forums
Patients

Having a life limiting illness changes things. The focus of care changes from curing a disease to helping patients have the best quality of life possible while managing their symptoms. There may be questions that you want to ask and to have answered. There may be information that you want to access. There are many things that you can do to help you understand what is happening and be more in control.

The pages are not intended to replace the care or advice of your health professionals. They provide a set of resources that may help you learn more and access materials that could help you manage better.

The following pages have been written specifically for patients.

- Understanding palliative care
- Your health care team and you
- Living with illness
- Having difficult conversations
- Being prepared for end-of-life decisions
- Feelings and emotions
- Your carer and family
- Are things changing?
- At the end
Help when caring at home

Nursing an ill person at home creates over time, a mini-hospital atmosphere. You will be helped by your health team with the delivery of various types of equipment. This can help make your ill family member feel more comfortable and equally importantly, help you care more safely and easily. It is important for you to continue to keep talking with your health team, especially about the most useful equipment for your situation.

While services differ from state to state and region to region, a surprisingly wide variety of help is often available - from local councils, local hospitals, regional community and health centres, Cancer Councils and various local voluntary bodies. This can include the loan of equipment and other practical items. Many of these services can be found in the National Resources and State Resources pages.

There may also be volunteer help from people who have been through your experience. They can be part of the local hospice or palliative care service.

Medicines and patient care

For those with a serious illness, managing medicines is an important task. There are many products now available at the local pharmacy. It is also possible that, with a GP script, they may count towards your PBS entitlements. Members of the health team can assist with this matter.

There are also online resources that can help you with practical aspects of patient care.

Transport

Even when patients are seriously ill, they benefit from specialist medical review in the clinic setting. Over time, access may become difficult. Consider getting a disability sticker for motor vehicles. This will allow you to park in special parking bays near your medical clinic.

There are also transport issues that can be investigated.

Financial Costs
Web based learning modules

Introduction

There are an increasing number of online teaching resources in palliative care. These vary in relation to:

- Their intended audience
- The detail in which content is covered
- Whether they are accredited for use in continuing professional education
- Whether they require registration and / or a fee.

Some are fully developed educational programs with training and self-evaluation activities, some are compendia of teaching materials or powerpoint slides on relevant topics, and a few are discussion starters.

Modules included on this list have been appraised for the quality of their content, and their relevance for palliative care. If there are other resources that should be included in this list, please contact the CareSearch team and let us know!

Web based modules by topic

General palliative care approach and philosophy

- Audio Web Seminars
- Cancomnursing.org online courses
- Cleveland Clinic Center for Continuing Education
- CLIP 15 minute online tutorials
- Dying Well discussion guide
- EPERG Fast Facts
- Hospice Manager Development Program
- National Association of Social Workers Web Ed

Pain management

- Cancomnursing.org online courses
- Centre for Palliative Care education HIV education modules
- CLIP 15 minute online tutorials
- Care curriculum for professional education in pain
- EPFLC for Craniaties
- EPERG Fast Facts
- Pain Management - the online series
- Topics in Pain Management - a slide compendium

Symptom management
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.

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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 1989 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: 

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Boolean Logic

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Fields To Search:
- Title
- Author
- Abstract
- Keywords
- ALL

Order By:
- Date
- Author
- Abstract ID
- Title

Publication Year:
[Input fields]

Type Of Literature:
- Journal
- Conference
- Abstract
- Thesis
- Government Grey
- ALL

[Search, Clear, Back Buttons]
CareSearch and OSWA – Now

• Patient and carer pages (useful info by state)
• Page in health professional groups
• Include abstracts on non-indexed databases - palliative relevant theses, conference abstracts,
• Research activities – access to RDMS, research register
CareSearch and OSWA – future

- Geographically distributed virtual communities
- Consolidating specialist literature and policy
- Discipline specific communications and also from discipline to clinical community communications
- Capacity building through education, networks
- Cooperative base consumers and health professionals
Acknowledgements

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