CareSearch: Enabling access to Australia's palliative care literature

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What is the problem?

Palliative care is an emerging specialty

- Lack of palliative evidence
- Best available evidence
- Multidisciplinary base
- Difficulties in accessing relevant information easily
- Improving uptake of evidence and knowledge

Working out answers

Evidence based (Palliative Care) project began in 2001 funded by Department of Health and Ageing

Aims:

- To identify and collate Australia's missing palliative care literature
- To make it accessible
- To promote EBP

Phase 1: Collecting the missing literature

- Identifying sources of missing literature
 - Conference abstracts, non-indexed journal articles, theses, "grey" literature
- Approaching organisations and agencies
- Reviewing for inclusion
- Collating, storing and indexing citations
- Evaluating conference abstracts

Phase 2: Developing the CareSearch website

- Building literature databases
- Creating an online evaluation system
- Designing a user management system
- Identifying and modifying a survey system to build an online research data management system

CareSearch website



Phase 3: Building awareness of it's roles in

- finding evidence
- generating evidence
- supporting practice

Considerations

- Target audience is palliative clinicians, educators and researchers
- Website as an interface

Finding the evidence

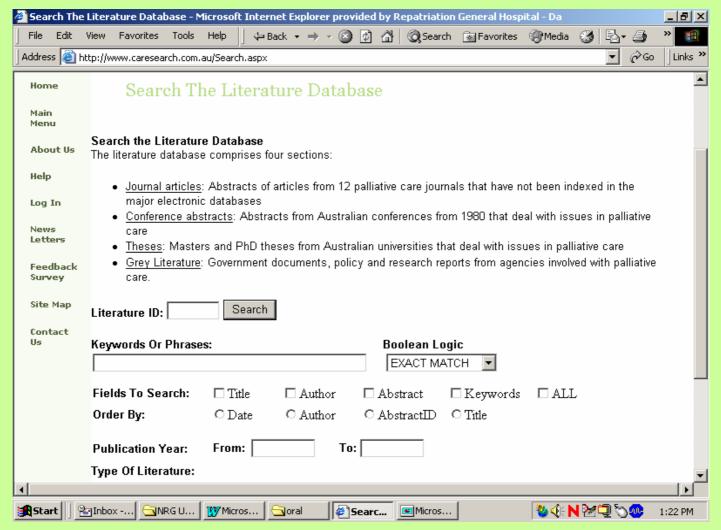
- CareSearch databases
- PubMed searches
- Searching efficiently and effectively
- Specialist websites and databases

CareSearch literature databases

- Conference Abstracts (n = 2063)
- Non-indexed journal articles (n = 475)
- Theses (n = 80)
- "Grey" literature (n = 105)

Searchable by author, year, keyword.

CareSearch literature database screen



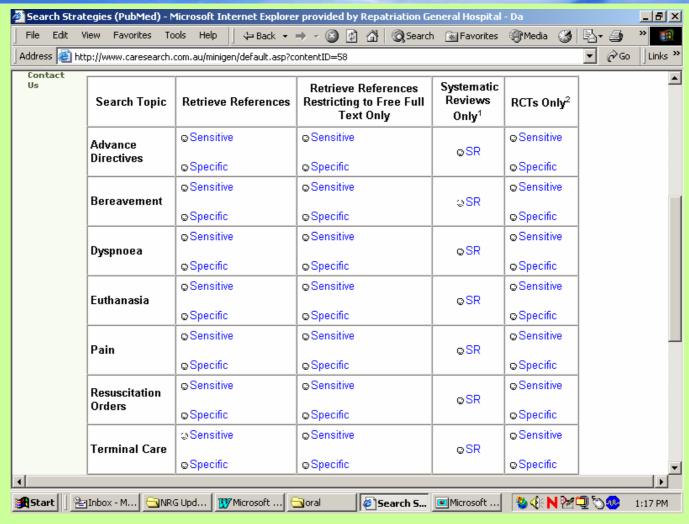
Search strategies

PubMed topic searches (eg dyspnoea, advance directives)

- Online NLM entry
- Options for SR, RCT, free full text
- Automatically updates with new articles

Searching in Ovid Medline

CareSearch PubMed Screen



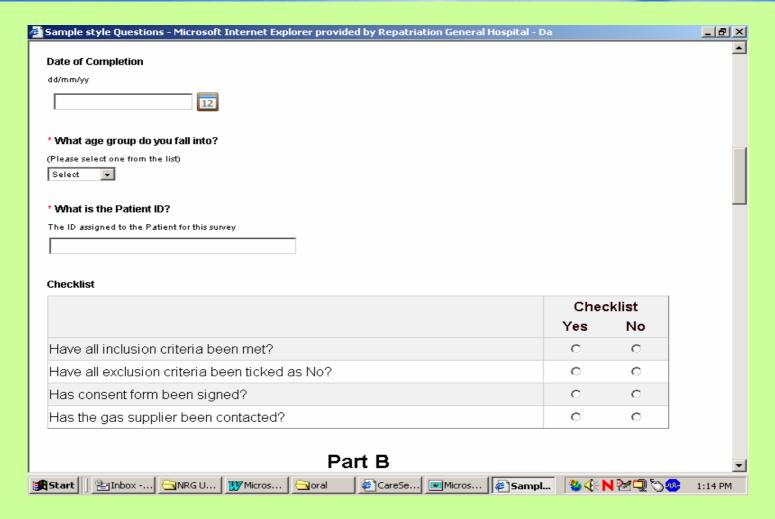
Generating evidence

- Contributing to literature/systematic reviews
- Online research data management system
- Identifying gaps
- Project research

Research data management system

- Online design of forms and questionnaires
- Web-based and email-based form completion
- Data entry from multiple sites with a single co-ordinating site
- Basic reporting of results with features such as percentages, graphs, and tables
- Export of data to other programs such as Excel, Access or SPSS

Sample style and format



CareSearch research

- Validating search filters for use in the general literature
- Publication rates of conference presentation
- Variable indexing of palliative articles in bibliographic databases

Supporting Practice

- Service models and clinical practice
- Research reports and posters
- "Hot Picks"
- Conference details
- Weblinks
- CareSearch eNews

Project Outcomes

- Over 2 600 items have been collected and are held in four databases
- Nearly 3 000 visits to the website each month
- Around 60 000 hits per month
- 500 subscribers to the CareSearch eNews
- First article published

Coming soon

- Literature databases (Expanding to include nonindexed Australian Journal articles)
- Evidence based practice (Expanding search strategies with critical appraisal, EBP tools and links)
- Research (Expanding to include grants and a directory of projects)
- Patient care (Expanded section with two sections -Service issues and clinical topics)
- Education and training (New section with links to formal and informal education activities)
- Resources (SIGs assessment tools)

Supporting CareSearch

- Use the site
- Provide us with feedback and ideas
- Help us evaluate conference abstracts
- Provide missing literature
- Tell your colleagues about the website

www.caresearch.com.au

Available now

Free to access

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