Finding and disseminating Australia’s missing palliative care literature

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Using evidence in practice

We use evidence and information to
• Develop and inform practice
• Improve patient outcomes
• Support equity and access in treatment

Presumes that we have access to relevant evidence and information
Issues in accessing information

- Relevant material exists
- Time
- Volume of materials produced
- Search and retrieval skills
- Appraisal and quality
- Applicability and transferability
Issues in palliative care

- Emerging discipline
- Lack of palliative evidence
- Best available evidence
- Multidisciplinary base
- Fragmented repositories
- Different settings and providers of care
- Developing culture of EBM and knowledge translation
Addressing the problems

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: Identifying missing literature

- Conference abstracts
- Non-indexed journal articles
- Theses and treatises
- Grey literature

(Literature other than that readily available and indexed; complements rather than duplicates)
Phase 1: Collecting materials

- Contacting conference organisers re palliative conferences in Australia since 1980
- Requests to Australian universities
- Approaches to government departments and palliative organisations
- Investigation of 12 palliative journals to determine if articles were indexed on Medline, CINAHL, PsycINFO or Embase
Phase 1: Collating materials

- Reviewed for relevance to palliative care
- Storage and indexing
- Citation details and abstract
- Copyright permissions
Phase 2: Enabling accessibility

• Target audience as palliative clinicians, educators and researchers
• Available to practitioners in many different settings and locations
• Available when practitioners need it

Looking at web-based access
Phase 2: Designing the website
Finding our technology partner and
• 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

An electronic resource for palliative care researchers and clinical specialists providing care for people with a life limiting illness.

Finding the Literature

Visitors can search our catalog of established literature on palliative care dating from 1904 to the present. CareSearch visitors can also learn about and search the general literature.

Generating the Evidence

CareSearch offers a research area providing access to facilities and resources including a research data management system.

Supporting the Evidence

A number of modules are available to researchers, clinicians, planners and administrators to support priorities in palliative care and to keep up to date with recent developments.

What's New

- October 2005 Hot Pick
- September 2005 (170 KB PDF)
- NHMRC Summary Paper 2005 (274 KB PDF)
- Published Searches now available

Knowledge Network

- Project Updates
- October 05(129 KB PDF)

caution copyright authority

JBI International Convention 2005
Phase 2: Designing the literature databases

- 4 separate databases that can be searched independently or together
- Boolean based search engine
- Search by author, year, title words
Phase 2: Outcomes
Website became operational in March 2004
Over 3000 visits per month

Items in literature databases:
- Journal articles 475
- Conference abstracts 2100
- Theses 80
- Grey literature 110
Phase 3: Promoting EBP (Finding evidence)

- CareSearch databases
- PubMed searches
- Searching efficiently and effectively
- Specialist websites and databases
PubMed topic searches (e.g. dyspnoea, advance directives)

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

Searching in Ovid Medline
Phase 3: Promoting EBP (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 coordinating 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 Questions - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Repatriation General Hospital - Da**

**Date of Completion**

day

**What age group do you fall into?**
(Please select one from the list)

Select

**What is the Patient ID?**
The ID assigned to the Patient for this survey

**Checklist**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Checklist</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have all inclusion criteria been met?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have all exclusion criteria been ticked as No?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has consent form been signed?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has the gas supplier been contacted?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Part B**
CareSearch research

- Validating search filters for use in the general literature
- Publication rates of conference presentation
- Variable indexing of palliative articles in bibliographic databases
Phase 3: Promoting EBP (Supporting practice)
• Patient care pages
• Research reports and posters
• “Hot Picks”
• Education and training information
• Reviewed weblinks
• CareSearch eNews
Reviewing accessibility, transfer and utilisation

- Nearly 3,000 items have been identified and included
- Around 4,000 visits and 100,000 hits monthly
- Emerging pattern of use in reviews
- Finding that less than 20% of conference presentations have been published
- Awareness by members of palliative care community
- eNews distribution is over 800
- Community members are willing to donate time to help
- Use of research platform (including an international multisite study)
- First articles published
www.caresearch.com.au

Available now
Free to access

JBI International Convention 2005
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National Reference Group
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