Using the CareSearch Website to find what you need to know

Online information about palliative care
Background to CareSearch:
“The evidence-based palliative care” project

• Commonwealth funding to support the development of palliative care practice and research
• The “missing palliative care literature”
• A resource for researchers and specialists in palliative care
Evolution of the project

• Establishing the processes
  – Evaluation of all content on the site – including links to other websites
  – Criteria for inclusion, processes for quality assurance and intellectual property
  – Not duplicating other resources – primarily a “resource broker”
  – Development of priorities and content review by an expert reference group

• Broadening the audience
  – Clinicians looking for palliative care information including GPs and aged care workers
  – Information about the National Palliative Care Program
  – Information for those affected by palliative care: patients, carers families and friends
CareSearch web pages

Up to date
Independent
Quality assured – evidence based
Developed by Australian palliative care specialists
Available at www.caresearch.com.au
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.

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
- **For Health Care Providers**
  - National Palliative Care Program
  - National Palliative Care Program
- **For Researchers and Palliative Specialists**
  - Palliative Care researchers and palliative care specialists may benefit from a range of specific resources and tools including:
    - National Palliative Care Program
    - National Palliative Care Program

What’s new on the site... ComPAC Community Forum now open... Validated palliative care search... click for more

What’s new in the Palliative Care Community... National Community Education Initiative... National Knowledge Week on Pain (UK)... click for more

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.

This site was last updated on 1 May 2007.
To get to the GP pages click on
What can you find in CareSearch?
Information about the National Palliative Care Program and Commonwealth government funded activities
CareSearch is an online resource of palliative care information. All materials included in this website are reviewed for quality and relevance.

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

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
Caring communities program

Background

The Caring Communities Program aims to improve the quality of palliative care provided in local communities. A key focus of the Program is to develop strong partnerships between palliative care service providers, health professionals, community organisations, carers, and people requiring palliative care.

The Caring Communities Program projects cover a broad range of activities. These include:

- education and training for health professionals;
- information, education and support for families, carers and volunteers;
- service enhancement;
- information and awareness for the broader community; and
- support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, rural communities and the aged care sector.

Funding

In the 2002 Federal Budget the Australian Government committed $55 million over four years to improve the standard of palliative care in the community. In addition, the Australian Government provided $201.2 million for palliative care under the Australian Health Care Agreements (2003 - 2008). Of this, $13.2 million has
Caring communities program completed projects

New South Wales projects

- **Project Name:** Developing linkages between an Indigenous population and a palliative care service
- **Project Description:** Facilitating partnerships between the palliative care service and the Indigenous community.
- **Organisation:** Wentworth Area Health Service
- **Click to view:** Project Overview

**Resources:**
A Palliative Care: Care of Aboriginal People Training Module. For more information phone (02) 4736 0500.

- **Project Name:** Helping Communities Care: Volunteer and Bereavement Support Networks
- **Project Description:** Implementing a model for volunteer coordination and bereavement support for rural communities.
- **Organisation:** Mid-Western Area Health Service
- **Click to view:** Project Overview
Another way to look for projects – using the search box
Section Navigation - Relevance: 6006
1. PATIENTS, CARERS, FAMILIES FRIENDS PATIENTS CARERS What ...

Section Navigation - Relevance: 5005
2. PATIENTS, CARERS, FAMILIES FRIENDS INTRODUCTION PATIENTS CARERS ...

Section Navigation - Relevance: 4004
3. PATIENTS, CARERS, FAMILIES FRIENDS INTRODUCTION PATIENTS CARERS...

Section Navigation - Relevance: 2002
4. PATIENTS, CARERS, FAMILIES FRIENDS INTRODUCTION PATIENTS CARERS...

Section Navigation - Relevance: 2002
5. PATIENTS, CARERS, FAMILIES FRIENDS INTRODUCTION PATIENTS CARERS...

Caring communities program completed projects - Relevance: 1041
All topics Aboriginal...

Caring communities program completed projects - Relevance: 1010
Strategies - Awareness raising Project Name...
What is in the non-indexed literature database?
This is the part of the website where you can find conference abstracts.

There is unpublished information here about:
- projects and research
- audits and quality improvement
- approaches to and debate about developing services
You can also search here for:

- journal articles
- theses
- government reports and “grey literature”
What is in “finding the evidence”??
Welcome to CareSearch. CareSearch is a repository 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

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
Doing a literature search to answer a specific clinical question about palliative care

- CareSearch has “preloaded” PubMed searches on the website for key areas of palliative care
- These use validated search strategies to filter the literature
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 topics which are currently available are:

- Advance directives
- Anorexia
- Bereavement
- Cachexia
- Care planning
- Complementary therapies
- Constipation
- Cost benefit analysis of palliative care
- Delirium/confusion
- Depression
- Dyspnoea
- Economics of palliative care
- Euthanasia
Search topics which are currently available are:

- Nausea
- Pain
- Palliative sedation
- Resuscitation orders
- Spirituality
- Sexuality
- Support for staff
- Terminal care
- Vomiting
- Volunteering
Dysphagia: Applying research to bedside practice.
PMID: 17384927 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

3: Conron M, Phuah S, Steinfort D, Dabscheck E, Wright G, Hart D
Analysis of multidisciplinary lung cancer practice.
PMID: 17199840 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Quality measures for symptoms and advance care planning in cancer: a systematic review.
PMID: 17050878 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

5: Bomba PA, Varni JW
Integrating POLST into palliative care guidelines: a paradigm shift in advance care planning in oncology.
PMID: 16948957 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

6: Davies R
The potential of integrated multi-agency care pathways for children.
PMID: 16536613 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

7: Schofield P, Carey M, Love A, Nehill C, Wein S
'Would you like to talk about your future treatment options? Discussing the transition from curative cancer treatment to palliative care.
PMID: 16875109 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Planning and providing end-of-life care in rural areas.
PMID: 16606431 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
Databases and information sources

Full text journals

Are you looking for freely available electronic journal articles? If you search PubMed it may provide with a link from the bibliographic reference you have chosen to a free full text copy available on the web. There are also some websites that provide free access to a range of journal titles (and in some cases other resources).

**FreeMedicalJournals.com**
This website provides access to over 1400 biomedical journals searchable alphabetically or by specialty area.

**Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research**
The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education Research is a not for profit organisation that maintains links to free medical journals, atlases, books, dictionaries and guidelines.

**High Wire Press**
High Wire Press is maintained the Stanford University Libraries and provides access to over 1,300,000 free full text articles.

**FREE journal articles via PubMed**
If you undertake a PubMed search, a 'page' icon is always found to the left hand side of each reference. If it contains a green bar, it indicates that there is link to a freely available full text version of the article. Follow the links provided.
If you want to know who is doing palliative care research in Australia in the area you are interested in – check the Research Register
Welcome to CareSearch. CareSearch is an online resource that provides information and evidence. All materials included in this website are peer-reviewed and of high 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

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

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

QUICK LINKS

finding your way around CareSearch
3 pages
patients, Carers, Families & friends
PubMed Palliative Care Searchers
Newsletters
CareSearch eNews
Project News
Indigenous Resources
about CareSearch
Australian research projects and studies in Palliative Care

CareSearch has developed this database as a register of Australian research projects and studies in palliative care. The register provides a means of sharing information, developing linkages, preventing duplication and promoting awareness of current research activities. You can filter the research projects by researcher, by study methodology or by topic using the links below.

We invite all Australian researchers to provide information on their current research activities which have received funding or ethics approval to the CareSearch project for inclusion in this database. To include your research, save the Registration Proforma to your computer, fill in the details and email it to CareSearch@rgh.sa.gov.au.

Follow this link to download Research Studies Proforma

View research studies listed by methodology

View research studies listed by investigator

View research studies listed by Topic

View All Topics

View Current research studies

View Current
Research studies register

View research study by topic

Aged care facility

*Decision making frameworks in advanced dementia: links to improved care*

*Palliative Care Dementia Interface: Enhancing Community Capacity*

*Palliative Nursing in Residential Aged Care*

*Residential - Palliative Approach Competency Study (R-PAC Study)*

Aged care worker

*Palliative Nursing in Residential Aged Care*

Cancer and cancer services

*An Audit of the Incidence, Mechanism, Aetiology and Management of Nausea and Vomiting in Patients at a Comprehensive Cancer Centre*

*An International Multi-centre Validation Study of a Pain Classification System for Advanced Cancer Pain*

*Assessing the Impact of 'Catastrophizing' on the Measurement of Pain Intensity in Cancer Patients*
If you are doing a palliative care research project which needed ethics approval you should register it on the research register

- become part of the Australian palliative care research community!
Information to support palliative care service managers is also available on CareSearch
Resources for service managers

Introduction page

Palliative care services and programs are in a period of development and change. There are changes in the way that services are organised and managed and an increasing emphasis on palliative care approaches in community and aged care settings. However, the evidence base regarding service management and organisational improvement is still developing and for service providers and policymakers, there are many issues in refining processes for planning and developing services.

Different approaches to the organisation of services and information on models of care and service delivery can be found in the CareSearch Service Models page.

The information needs of service managers or Boards can vary considerably depending on the type of service(s) being provided and whether the service or program is established or is being planned or implemented. However, all services will need a basic understanding of the following:

- Definitions of palliative care and the implications for care provision: The definitions of palliative care used by Palliative Care Australia and by the World Health Organisation both highlight the multidisciplinary nature of the care, the patient and family as the focus of care, the need for holistic care and bereavement care after death. Quality palliative care will therefore require access to professionals from various disciplines and mechanisms to coordinate the required care.

- Relevant Australian legislation and regulation: The provision of services is a business function and must adhere to a variety of legislative and regulatory requirements. These include general business activities such as industrial relations, tax and corporations’ law, occupational health and safety as well as issues specific to the health sector such as advance directives or privacy legislation. There are many organisations that can assist managers in understanding their responsibilities.

business.gov.au is a government website that provides essential information on planning, starting and running your business. The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
Clinical information is also available for general practitioners
Palliative care for GPs

For the next month, we will be seeking feedback on these GP resources. Help us to get it right.

Click HERE to complete the confidential, online survey - estimated completion time is 5 minutes. Please note that the internet is not a secure medium.

Quick clinical guidance

- Assessing prognosis
- Pain and symptom management - link to the online Palliative Medicine Handbook
- Effective communication strategies for difficult situations
- Practical skills - ointment, dressings, enteral feeding
- Pain, symptom and medication management
- Immunology and infection
- Palliative care emergencies
- The dying patient and their caregivers
- Palliative care in practice
- GPs as palliative care providers
- The palliative approach in general practice
- Providing palliative care in aged care facilities
- Further training opportunities for GPs
- Getting help with difficult problems

Your palliative care reference library

Online Palliative Medicine Handbook
Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Psychosocial Care of Adults with Cancer (VIMR/IC)
Medical Care of Older Persons in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACGP “Silver Book”)
Pain in Residential Aged Care Facilities: Management Strategies (Australian Pain Society)
Multicultural palliative care guidelines (Palliative Care Australia)
Providing culturally appropriate palliative care to Indigenous Australians (Department of Health and Ageing)
Until the Chemist opens: palliation from the doctor’s bag (Australian Family Physician article)
Complete list of Patient Resources
Complete list of Assessment Tools

CLINICAL DISCLAIMER: The clinical recommendations in CareSearch are of a general nature and are intended to provide guidance. Health professionals should use their clinical judgement in deciding the appropriateness of the care of individual patients. The information presented on CareSearch is intended to support the relationship that exists between a patient and his or her physician. While the information contained herein was current at the date of publication, CareSearch reserves the right to make alterations without prior notice should the need arise. CareSearch is not responsible for the contents of any off-site information.
Palliative care information for patients, caregivers families and friends has been released this year.
Patients, Carers, Families and Friends

Palliative care will affect all of us at some stage in our lives whether as a patient, carer, family member, neighbour or friend yet many of us do not have a clear understanding of what palliative care does. When an illness can not be cured, the focus of care changes to helping patients have the best quality of life possible while managing their symptoms. Palliative care maintains quality of life by addressing physical symptoms such as pain or nausea as well as helping with emotional, spiritual and social needs.

There are many issues that arise when dealing with a life limiting illness. These pages provide information and links to resources that may help you.

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 pages are organised into areas:

- **For patients**: Pages dealing with the particular concerns of the person with a life limiting illness
- **For carers**: Specific pages providing information about the carer role and practical caring matters
- **For families and friends**: Pages that can help you learn about palliative care and how to support the patient and their carers
- **Useful information**: Pages that provide information on a specific palliative care topics such as advance directives and state information.
Using a web-based education module to extend your knowledge of palliative care
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
- Cancomursing.org online courses
- Cleveland Clinic Center for Continuing Education
- CLIP 15 minute online tutorials
- Dying Well discussion guide
- EPEC Fast Facts
- Hospice Manager Development Program
- National Association of Social Workers Web Ed

Pain management
- Cancomursing.org online courses
- Centre for Palliative Care education HIV education modules
- CLIP 15 minute online tutorials
- Core curriculum for professional education in pain
- EPEC for Geriatrics
- EPEC Fast Facts
- Pain Management - the online series
- Topics in Pain Management - a slide compendium

Symptom management
Web based modules are available on various topics:

- General palliative care approach and philosophy
- Pain Management
- Symptom Management
- Communication and end of life decision making
- Nursing issues
- Social work issues
- Aged care issues
- Research issues
The content on CareSearch is being continually reviewed, updated and improved
Where to next? The Australian Knowledge Network in Palliative Care is coming soon
- Will be online in May 2008
- New look
- Will provide summaries of all of the best quality research and evidence to support palliative care practice
- Exploring new ways of linking practitioners online, providing tools and skills to improve care
If you have any feedback about CareSearch or any questions or comments, you can contact the team via the website link.
Acknowledgements

This presentation was written by Dr Christine Sanderson on behalf of the Australian Knowledge Network in Palliative Care

The CareSearch website and the Australian Knowledge Network in Palliative Care are funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.
Thanks to:

- Jennifer Tieman (Network Director)
- The Knowledge Network project team
- The Knowledge Network Management Group
- Clinicians and researchers who have given their time and expertise to help develop the online materials