



28 June 2011

To: All Palliative Care Australia Conference 2011 delegates

Re: Participation in a study on searching for palliative care literature and evidence

We are inviting all health professionals attending the Palliative Care Australia Conference 2011 to participate in a research study on searching for palliative care information. Our aim is to analyse how health professionals search for palliative care information in PubMed.

A ***Participant Information Sheet*** follows this introductory letter. This outlines what is involved in more detail. Essentially, participants will be required to create and save a search to retrieve literature relevant to palliative care in PubMed. No more than 30 minutes will be required. Staff at the CareSearch Booth at the conference will provide you with access to a laptop to undertake the search.

Basic familiarity with PubMed is needed. For those who have not used PubMed before, a basic ***PubMed introductory sheet*** is available here. This should be sufficient for the searching task.

Your participation in this study is **voluntary** and, if you agree to participate, you have the right to withdraw your consent at any time.

If you wish to participate in the study you will need to download and complete the attached ***Response Form*** and ***Consent Form***. This will enable you to nominate your preferred time to undertake the task.

You can scan and email the completed forms to caresearch@flinders.edu.au or post them to CareSearch Project, Palliative and Supportive Services, Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide 5001. We will then confirm your time and provide further details.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or require further information.

Jennifer Tieman
CareSearch Director
(08 7221 8237)

Searching for palliative care literature and evidence *A CareSearch research study*

Participant Information for Palliative Care Australia Conference Delegates

Researchers: Jennifer Tieman & Raechel Damarell, CareSearch, Flinders University

Purpose of the study

This study will investigate how palliative care professionals use the PubMed database to find palliative care information. It will do this by analysing a set of real searches constructed by palliative care professionals to identify the more successful strategies employed, as well as the less successful ones. This information will help us improve our existing CareSearch palliative care filter [1] and inform the development of a CareSearch interactive training module to be made available on the CareSearch website.

Explanation of procedures

Prior to arriving at the PCA Conference, we ask that you do the following:

- Print and sign the **Consent Form**.
- Print the **Response Form**. Use this to nominate three preferred times during the Conference for completing the study tasks. We will use your preferences to contact you prior to the Conference with a firm time. Use this form to also indicate if you'd like to receive details of the study results.
- Post both forms to the CareSearch Project, Palliative and Supportive Services, Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide 5001. Alternatively, scan and email to caresearch@flinders.edu.au

At the Conference:

- Come to the CareSearch booth at your nominated time. You will be taken to a laptop with printer attached. The computer will have the PubMed database open.
- Use the instructions provided to create a search strategy on PubMed that represents your best attempt to retrieve as much literature on the subject of general palliative care as possible.
- Print your search and label with the unique identifying number issued to you.
- Complete a brief questionnaire.
- Submit both the printed search and the completed questionnaire using the enveloped provided.

Together, these tasks should take no more than 30 minutes of your time.

Possible risks and discomforts

We can foresee no risks for you. Your involvement in the study is **voluntary** and you may withdraw your participation at any time.

Confidentiality assurance

While this study may eventually be published in some form, your participation in it is completely anonymous. You will be issued with a unique identifier number before you begin. This number will be the only identifier used in the study and is merely used to match your printed search to your completed questionnaire.

Enquiries

Any enquiries you have concerning this study should be directed to Jennifer Tieman, Principal Researcher.

Email: Jennifer.tieman@flinders.edu.au

Phone: (08) 7221 8237

Fax: (08) 7221 8238

Please retain this information for future reference.

Reference

1. Sladek R, Tieman J, Fazekas BS, Abernethy AP, Currow DC. [Development of a subject search filter to find information relevant to palliative care in the general medical literature.](#) J Med Libr Assoc. 2006 Oct;94(4):394-401.

This study has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (Project number 5191). For more information regarding ethical approval of the study contact the Executive Officer of the Committee by phone on 8201 3116, by fax on 8201 2035, or by email human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au

CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH

I, _____ (name; please print clearly),
being over the age of 18 years hereby consent to participate as requested in the research study titled
Searching for palliative care literature and evidence

I confirm that:

1. I have read the information provided
2. Details of procedures and any risks have been described to my satisfaction.
3. I am aware that I should retain a copy of the Information Sheet and Consent Form for future reference.
4. I understand that:
 - I may not directly benefit from taking part in this research.
 - I am free to withdraw from the project at any time and am free to decline to answer particular questions.
 - While the information gained in this study may be published as explained, I cannot be identified.

Participant's signature.....

Date.....

Please return this Consent Form (with Response Form) to the CareSearch booth during the conference or mail to:

CareSearch Project
Palliative and Supportive Services
Flinders University
GPO Box 2100, Adelaide 5001

Response Form
for Palliative Care Australia Conference Delegates

Study title: Searching for palliative care literature and evidence
Researchers: Jennifer Tieman & Raechel Damarell, CareSearch, Flinders University

Please nominate your first 3 preferred timeslots for taking part in the study. The study tasks should take no more than 30 minutes of your time.

PCA Conference times available:

Time	Tuesday 30 August	Wednesday 31 August	Thursday 1 September	Friday 2 September
Before 9am				
9am-10.30am				
Morning tea				
11am-12.30pm				
Lunchtime				
1.30pm-3pm				
Afternoon tea				
3.30pm-5pm				
After 5pm				

Please provide your contact details below for us to notify you of your allocated timeslot.

Name _____
 Mailing address _____
 Email address _____

If you would like a reminder SMS sent to you during the Conference, please provide a mobile phone number: _____

Would you like a copy of the study's final results?

Yes No

Please return this form (with Consent Form) to the CareSearch Booth during the Conference or mail to: CareSearch Project, Palliative and Supportive Services, Flinders University
 GPO Box 2100, Adelaide 5001