

Standard 6

This resource maps CareSearch resources, evidence and knowledge to the National Palliative Care Standards and the NSAP Quality Elements. CareSearch has developed this resource to assist Services to develop their Quality Improvement Action Plan based on their Key Improvement Area priorities identified at the end of their NSAP self assessment snapshot.

When to use this resource:

After you have completed your NSAP self assessment snapshot you will receive your NSAP Self Assessment Interim Report and Results Report. Your next NSAP steps are to create a Quality Improvement Action Plan (QIAP) based on these reports, your strategic plan, latest palliative care evidence and other quality programs you are involved in (eg PCOC). This resource assists your Service to source the latest evidence for the quality improvement initiatives your Service will undertake, the main goal is to prevent Services 'reinventing the wheel'.

How to use this resource:

This resource includes some suggested reading and resources that may assist your Service to develop your Quality Improvement Action Plan. Evidence on relevant Standards is found within the Systematic Review Collection, the PubMed Topic Searches and the Clinical Practice Pages. Always consider the GP hub, Allied Health and Nurses' hub for further relevant or contextual information. Refer patients and families to relevant pages or resources written especially for them.

Instructions for use:

- Electronically go straight to the hyperlinks for the information
- As a hard copy use the words underlined in the search engine in CareSearch

Standard 6

Standard 6: The unique **needs of dying patients** are considered, their comfort maximized and their dignity preserved.

National Palliative Care Standard		Relevant Evidence (to read)		
Standard 6		<p>CareSearch Review Collection: eg care pathways, preferred place of death, also multiple symptoms</p> <p>Palliative Care PubMed Searches: eg, care pathways, end of life care, multiple symptoms are also listed</p>		
NSAP Quality Element		Location of health professional resources (to read)	Location of consumer resources (to recommend)	Things that you can do
6.1	The concerns, hopes, fears and expectations of the patient are addressed openly and honestly in a way that is appropriate for their age, culture and social situation.	Nurses Hub / Clinical / Communication	For Patients, Carers and Families / Living With Illness / Why is Communication Important / Difficult Conversations	Does your service participate in the PCOC patient and carer survey? Contact PCOC for further information.
6.2	The care plan is revised when the patient is assessed as in the terminal phase to reflect the needs of the patient and family.	Clinical Evidence / Patient Management / End of Life Care		
6.3	There are timely and appropriate clinical responses to patients who experience distressing symptoms.	Clinical Evidence / Patient Management	For Patients, Carers and Families / Living With Illness / Symptoms , Pain	
6.4	Patient and family wishes regarding the care setting for the death are documented.	What is Palliative Care / Understanding Palliative Care / Preferred Place of Death	For Patients, Carers and Families / At The End/ Place of Care , Place of Death	

Standard 6

NSAP Quality Element		Location of health professional resources (to read)	Location of consumer resources (to recommend)	Things that you can do
6.5	Any inability to meet these preferences is reviewed by the team			
6.6	The family is educated regarding the signs and symptoms of approaching death, in a way that is appropriate for their age, culture and social situation.		For Patients, Carers and Families /At The End / Changes At the Time of Death	
6.7	Plans are in place for the certification of death, including plans for certification after hours.	GP Hub / The Dying Patient / State by State Requirements		
6.8	Supplementary element for Level 2 and 3 Services : There are processes in place to respond to the need for urgent assessment and guidance for Primary Care, Level 1 and 2 services caring for patients at the end of life.			

NSAP would like to acknowledge CareSearch for the work in developing this resource.