The nurses[HUB]news keeps you in touch with what’s happening. Find out about:

- Case Study: John
- Profile: Southern Adelaide Palliative Services
- Project Summary: Do patients and carers find separate palliative care clinic consultations acceptable? Models of patient care.
- Pharmacy update: Benzodiazepines
- Update: Librarians are your friends

What’s New!

Changes to the nurses[HUB]news

You will see some changes to the nurses[HUB]news in 2015, which we hope will improve the service that we are providing. No longer a monthly newsletter, the nurses[HUB]news will be produced every quarter and will provide more comprehensive content than previously. If there is anything that you would like to contribute, or to suggest as a topic of interest for nurses, please email Deb Rawlings: deborah.rawlings@flinders.edu.au.

New resource added to the website

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (US) has a set of guidelines: Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Distress Management (2013). These have been added to the Allied Health Hub on the Psycho-Social Assessment page, but may also be of interest to nurses.

Difficult Conversations for Young Adults, a new guide published today by NCPC and Together for Short Lives, aims to support health professionals in having difficult conversations with the growing number of children and young adults with life-limiting conditions who come into their care. This has been added to the Nurses Hub/Areas of Practice/Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA) page.

This group have also developed a guide to make it easier to talk to people with heart failure at the end of life (1.14MB pdf) which has also been added to the Areas of Practice/Non-malignant page in the Nurses Hub.

NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development Fellowships Scheme

The joint NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development Fellowships Scheme provides opportunities for postdoctoral researchers to undertake advanced training in the health, medical, fundamental sciences, social, economic and cultural fields relevant to dementia, in either Australia or overseas. Applications close: 1700 hrs (5:00pm) AEDT, Wednesday 11 March 2015.
Marie Curie Survey (UK)

In the UK, the Palliative and End-of-Life Care Priority Setting Partnership has developed a set of top 10 questions patients, carers and professionals most want answered about end-of-life care. You can also read the full report. (891kb pdf)

Paediatric resource of interest

A new short film from Little Stars was released early in January. The film, entitled ‘Charlie’s story’, tells the story of a four-year-old boy with a life-limiting condition. Find out more about the Little Stars project and upcoming films in the series.

Conferences of interest

Cancer Nurses Society of Australia 18th Winter Congress (14 - 16 June 2015, Perth)
This year’s theme is: ‘Cancer Nursing: Expanding the Possibilities’ and will look at an array of new areas that cancer nurses can become involved in. This will include breast cancer care, radiation oncology, advanced practice, rural cancer care, beginning cancer nursing research and pursuing higher education in cancer care.

Sixth Pan-Pacific Nursing Conference and First Colloquium on Chronic Illness Care (March 2-4 2016, Hong Kong)
The aim of the conference is to provide an international platform for discussion and debate among health professionals. Abstract submissions are now open, with sub-themes including ‘Contemporary health issues and emerging challenges’ (which includes palliative and end-of-life care), Aged care, chronic illness care, and social care. Click here for more information.

Did you know?

We reported in the December nurses[HUB]news that five US States now allow terminally ill patients to receive treatment with drugs and devices that haven't been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. (Right to Try Law). Similarly, in the UK at the moment the ‘Medical Innovation Bill 2014/2015’, (proposed by Lord Saatchi after his wife died of ovarian cancer) is before the House of Lords. This is a bill to make provision about innovation in medical treatment. Courts will therefore be able to adjudicate on good and bad clinical behaviour. A doctor who follows the correct process will be protected, allowing and encouraging responsible and measured innovation to take place, with the patient’s consent (such as access to trials and off-license drugs).

Did you know that Palliative Care Nurses Australia (PCNA) is a national palliative care nursing organisation that is relevant to any nurse interested in the nursing care of people at the end of life? You can access membership information on their website.
Something to read


The research questions in this study were (1) whether the information resources used were perceived as valuable by physicians, residents, and nurses, and (2) whether the obtained information was considered to have had an impact on patient care. This paper provides an overview of the results of a survey of 56 participating library sites serving physicians, residents, and nurses in 118 hospitals. The authors found that library and information resources were perceived as valuable, and the information obtained was seen as having an impact on patient care. Electronic access to information resources from multiple locations has increased the ability of health professionals to use these resources for improved patient care. The roles of librarians are diversifying to include management of electronic resources, user instruction and support, specialised research and clinical information search services, and involvement in institution-level quality improvement.

Somewhere to visit

*Cancer Australia* was established by the Australian Government in 2006 to benefit all Australians affected by cancer, and their families and carers. Cancer Australia works to reduce the impact of cancer and improve the well-being of those diagnosed by ensuring that evidence informs cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and supportive care. For nurses, relevant information and resources can be found on clinical best practice, with links to cancer learning and clinical trials information, as well as providing information for consumers.

Newsletter Basics

Follow this link to subscribe to, or email newsletter@caresearch.com.au to unsubscribe from the newsletter. The next edition will be sent on Wednesday 20 May 2015. To share something, please email deborah.rawlings@flinders.edu.au