**Brief description of the study:** General practitioners are ideally placed to provide medical care to patients with terminal illness. However, anecdotally and based on studies conducted in Australia and overseas, it seems that many GPs are not involved in providing palliative care for reasons that are not entirely clear.

The main aim of this study is to identify and determine the relative importance of the main issues and barriers that GPs face in providing palliative care to patients. Some examples of the barriers that are being studied include issues such as remuneration, lack of time, level of training and experience in palliative care, and GPs’ attitude to palliative medicine.

The study is being conducted as a postal survey with questionnaires being mailed out to a random sample of 500 GPs across two regions in Sydney with different socio-economic characteristics. This will take place between March and May 2007 with data analysis to be completed before July.

**Study Methodology:** (Please mark with an x which type of study methodology)

- Epidemiology
- Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement
- x Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive
- Mixed Method
- Systematic Review
- Intervention: RCT
- Intervention: Comparative or cohort study
- Intervention: Case series

**Project details:**

- Funding source (Optional): Fairfield Hospital GP Unit and GPET RSR Fund
- Has the study received ethics approval? X Yes No Not applicable
- Project starting date: January 2007
- Project completion date: July 2007
- Multi site: Yes x No Not applicable

**RESEARCHERS**

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<th>Investigator C (Name)</th>
<th>Dr Sanjyot Vagholkar (Fairfield Hospital GP Unit)</th>
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<td>Investigator D (Name)</td>
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<td>Investigator E (Name)</td>
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**Associated publications / reports:** Poster Presentation at PHCRIS Conference May 2007

**Topics:** Doctors GP’s & non-palliative care specialists