

CareSearch Project Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma	0077
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Study Title: Evaluation of a palliative care needs assessment intervention.

Brief description of the study: This project is Phase 4 of a 6-phase program of work to reduce the incidence of late and crisis referral to specialist palliative care services and improve referral where psychological, social, physical and spiritual problems are evident. Directing a more needs based approach to the delivery of palliative care has become an important focus, so that people receive care according to the complexity and severity of their needs, independent of diagnosis or prognosis. The Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines, developed in 2006, provide a comprehensive review of the physical and psychosocial issues that may impact upon advanced cancer patients, their caregivers, families and health professionals. Used in both generalist and specialist settings, the Needs Assessment Tool: Progressive Disease-Cancer (NAT: PD-C) was developed to complement the Guidelines and assist in matching the types and levels of need experienced by people with the most appropriate person or service to address that need.

The aim of this study is to assess the impact of the introduction and systematic use of the Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines and NAT: PD-C on needs and service utilisation of people with advanced cancer and their caregivers. For each participant, level of need, anxiety, depression, quality of life and service use were measured repeatedly over the study. Data collection for this study has been completed and data analyses are currently underway. The impact of the intervention on patient and caregiver outcomes; and on patient service use and referral will be examined.

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

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

Project details:

Funding source (Optional): Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; NHMRC Postgraduate Research Scholarship

Has the study received ethics approval?	x	Yes		No		Not applicable
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Project starting date: November 2006

Project completion date: December 2009

Multi site:	x	Yes		No		Not applicable
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RESEARCHERS

Principal Investigator (name) **Prof Afaf Girgis**

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Advisory group members:	Professor Geoff Mitchell Professor Patsy Yates Professor Martin Tattersall Professor Brian Kelly Professor Linda Kristjanson Professor Patricia Davidson Ms Emma Gorton
Associated publications / reports: Girgis A, Johnson C, Currow D, Waller A, Kristjanson L, Mitchell G, Yates P, Neil A, Kelly B, Tattersall M & Bowman D (2006). <i>Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines</i> . The Centre for Health Research & Psycho-oncology (CHERP), Newcastle, NSW, 2006. (A summary of the Guidelines can be found at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-centre/cherp/professional-resources). AE Waller, A Girgis, DC Currow, C Lecathelinais. Development of a Palliative Care Needs Assessment Tool (PC-NAT) for use by multi-disciplinary health professionals. <i>Palliative Medicine</i> , 2008; 22 (8): 956-964.	
Topics (Admin only) Referral, Palliative care and health care providers general, Planning and managing palliative care services general.	