

CareSearch Project Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma	0079
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Study Title: Palliative care needs assessment program: Generalising cancer needs based resources to heart failure

Brief description of the study:
This project is Phase 6 of a 6-phase program of work to reduce the incidence of late and crisis referral to specialist palliative care services (SPCSs) and improve referral where psychological, social, physical and spiritual problems are evident. Palliative care can be provided to people with a life-limiting illness, or illnesses that are "reasonably expected to cause the death of the patient within a foreseeable future". Even though non-cancer groups are a small percentage of the palliative care population in Australia and internationally, there is a need to ensure that like people with cancer, they too receive appropriate and timely palliative care. In fact, people with non-cancer diagnoses often experience a need for assistance with physical and psychosocial concerns similar to that of people with cancer; as well as similar limits to their prognosis.

The Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines and the Needs Assessment Tool: Progressive Disease - Cancer (NAT: PD-C) were developed to assist health professionals in identifying and managing the needs of people with advanced cancer and their caregivers. This work aims to generalise the Guidelines and modify the NAT: PD-C to the heart failure population, producing a Needs Assessment Tool: Progressive Disease – Heart Failure (NAT: PD-HF), in order to assist health professionals to identify and address the needs of people with this condition. These resources will then be pilot tested for use by different health professionals who provide care for with people with heart failure and their caregivers.

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):

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

Project completion date:

Multi site:		Yes	x	No		Not applicable
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RESEARCHERS

Principal Investigator (name)	Prof Afaf Girgis
Contact Details	Centre for Health Research and Psycho-oncology Afaf.girgis@newcastle.edu.au
Investigator B (Name)	Prof David Currow

Investigator C (Name)	Ms Amy Waller
Investigator D (Name)	Ms Emma Gorton
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, End stage organ failure, Palliative care and health care providers general.	