

CareSearch Project		0081	
Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma			
Study Title: Validity, reliability and clinical feasibility of a Needs Assessment Tool for people with progressive cancer			
Brief description of the study: Understanding the individual experiences and needs of people with cancer and their caregivers is essential to providing care that is explicitly and individually tailored. A needs based approach to the delivery of cancer care has become an important focus, to ensure people receive care according to the complexity and severity of their needs, independent of diagnosis or prognosis. As Carlson (2008) suggests however, implementing an approach to care based on the assessment of needs has its own challenges, including how to define need and how and when to assess need. The Needs Assessment Tool (NAT) in palliative care was developed to help determine the type of care required by people with advanced cancer and their caregivers, based on the assessment of the complexity and severity of their physical and psychosocial needs. The NAT was initially pilot tested with multi-disciplinary health professionals. Given its already established inter-rater reliability, acceptability and face and content validity in this pilot study, the aim of this study was to assess the reliability, validity and acceptability of the NAT in a palliative care clinical setting. Participants included people with advanced cancer referred to the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Palliative Care Service, Western Australia. A staff member from the service completed the NAT for each participant. A second staff member completed a second copy of the NAT for the same participant on the same day without discussing the patient or comparing responses, to provide a measure of inter-rater reliability. The AKPS, RUG-ADL and PCPSS were also collected by one of these staff members as part of standard practice to provide a measure of concurrent validity. Staff members who completed the NAT were asked to complete an acceptability survey.			
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): Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing			
Has the study received ethics approval?	x	Yes	No
Project starting date: July 2008			
Project completion date: July 2009			
Multi site:		Yes	x No
RESEARCHERS			
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Investigator E (Name)	Prof David Currow
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:	
<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Waller A, Girgis A, Scott W, Foot L, Lecathelinais C, Sibbritt D, et al. Validity, reliability and clinical feasibility of a Needs Assessment Tool for use in people with progressive cancer. <i>Psycho-oncology</i> in press.</p>	
Topics (Admin only): Cancer and cancer care, Patients	