

<b>CareSearch Project</b> <b>Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma</b>	<b>0088</b>
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**Study Title: A comprehensive discharge planning strategy to enhance hospital-to-home transition for patients with life limiting illness: optimizing communication across primary-secondary settings**

**Brief description of the study:** Without timely and appropriate information, community health professionals face difficulties in responding to the needs of palliative care patients discharged from hospital to home. Yet, communication between health care providers at the hospital/community interface is often hampered by delays in transfer of information. Furthermore, medical discharge summaries seldom capture the complex aspects of palliative care. To help overcome these difficulties, a discharge planning process for palliative care patients at RBWH was developed. The process incorporated:

- A hand - held Patient and Carer Support Record
- As required Case Conferences – between hospital and community healthcare providers

**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
<b>X</b>	<b>Intervention: Comparative or cohort study</b>
	Intervention: Case series

**Project details:**

Funding source (Optional): Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing through the Local Palliative Care Grants Program

Has the study received ethics approval?	<b>X</b>	Yes		No		Not applicable
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Project starting date: 10/06/06

Project completion date: 30/04/09

Multi site:		Yes	<b>X</b>	No		Not applicable
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**RESEARCHERS**

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Investigator B (Name) Dr Carol Douglas

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Investigator E (Name)	
<b>Associated publications / reports:</b> TBA	
<b>Topics (Admin only) Doctors (GPs and non-palliative care specialists, Settings of palliative care general, Information management</b>	