

# SA Palliative Care Community Pharmacy Update

A joint initiative of South Australian Palliative Care Services

A range of resources is available to guide pharmacists as they engage with patients, carers and other health professionals when relating to palliative care issues.

## Palliative Care Resources

This update supplements the Community Pharmacy Update from [May 2013 \(344kb pdf\)](#).

### SA Health Pharmacological management of symptoms for adults in the last days of life

[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/lastdaysoflife](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/lastdaysoflife)

This resource aims to support end of life care in acute hospitals. It includes a prescribing guideline and a fact sheet about medication cessation.

### End of Life Essentials

[www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/3866/Default.aspx](http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/3866/Default.aspx)

This website provides e-learning opportunities and resources for clinicians working in the acute sector, including pharmacists, to improve the quality and safety of end-of-life care in hospitals. There are six learning modules which are free to access.

### Residential Aged Care Palliative Approach Toolkit (PA Toolkit)

[www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/3629/Default.aspx](http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/3629/Default.aspx)

The PA Toolkit is a comprehensive, step-by-step guide to implementing a palliative approach in residential aged care facilities (RACFs). The PA Toolkit includes policies and procedures and education for staff, as well as resources for friends and relatives of residents in RACFs.

### Centre for Palliative Care

[www.centreforpallcare.org](http://www.centreforpallcare.org)

In conjunction with other health organisations and partners, the Centre for Palliative Care regularly develops a range of resources for the community and health professionals. This includes clinical guidelines for syringe driver compatibilities

## Caring Safely at Home Project

[www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/2145/Default.aspx](http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/2145/Default.aspx)

The CSAH project successfully developed, implemented and evaluated a standardised education and resource package designed to improve the capacity and confidence of lay caregivers to manage subcutaneous medications.

## palliAGED

[www.palliaged.com.au](http://www.palliaged.com.au)

palliAGED (including mobile apps) makes it easy to find and use palliative care evidence and practice resources in aged care. Older Australians, their families and friends are also welcome to use these trustworthy resources.

## Palliativedrugs.com

[www.palliativedrugs.com](http://www.palliativedrugs.com)

This UK website provides essential independent information for health professionals about drugs in palliative care. Some sections including access to the Palliative Care Formulary require a paid subscription.

## SA Health Paediatric Palliative Care

[www.wch.sa.gov.au/services/az/other/allied/pall\\_care/index.html](http://www.wch.sa.gov.au/services/az/other/allied/pall_care/index.html)

The Women's and Children's Hospital provides palliative care for paediatric patients across the state. Paediatric specific resources are available on this website.

## For more information

Contact the Lead Palliative Care Pharmacists:

- > **Josephine To, Northern**  
[Josephine.to@sa.gov.au](mailto:Josephine.to@sa.gov.au) (08) 8161 2499
- > **Cheyne Sullivan, Central**  
[Cheyne.Sullivan@sa.gov.au](mailto:Cheyne.Sullivan@sa.gov.au) (08) 8222 6825
- > **Paul Tait, Southern**  
[Paul.tait@sa.gov.au](mailto:Paul.tait@sa.gov.au) (08) 8404 2058

©Department of Health, Government of South Australia. All rights reserved.

This update is intended to provide practical up to date and factual information relating to pharmacy and medicines management in the setting of Palliative Care and is based on critical review of available evidence. Individual patient circumstances must be considered when applying this information. Please feel free to distribute this update further to interested colleagues.

