

SA Palliative Care Community Pharmacy Update

A joint initiative of South Australian Palliative Care Services

The internet has a wealth of resources to support health professionals with information regarding palliative care. This fact sheet looks at three Australian websites with resources to support the delivery of pharmacist advice in store, to GPs and aged care.

Web-based resources

The Australian government has funded a number of National projects to ensure that community based healthcare providers – including pharmacists – have access to up-to-date, relevant and evidence based resources. Each has free newsletters to subscribe to.

CareSearch

CareSearch provides information about palliative care for a wide audience including: patients, carers and families as well as for the health professionals providing their care. In over 10 years it has gained a reputation as a trustworthy site for healthcare professionals to: find information for patients, access clinical evidence, and locate educational modules.

The CareSearch Blogs ([Palliative Perspectives](#)) are particularly insightful and give a range of viewpoints on palliative care.

palliAGED

palliAGED is the palliative care evidence and practice resource for aged care. It assists the aged care clinical and care worker workforce to easily find the evidence while providing practical tips in how to apply it to practice.

The [Symptoms and Medicines](#) pages - located within the practice centre - offer information to guide healthcare professionals caring for people in the last days of life (terminal phase). It offers symptom specific information as well as general guidance around issues relating to medicines management in the terminal phase, such as opioid conversion and subcutaneous medication administration.

End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC)

A consortium of three universities and five national peak bodies support the ELDAC project. ELDAC aims to connect healthcare professionals working in aged care with palliative care and advance care planning information, resources and services. The five ELDAC toolkits are fundamental in supporting these connections, and may benefit pharmacists working in specific settings such as general practice. They help users to develop a plan and organise their efforts to follow evidence-based recommendations or practices. The ELDAC toolkits are:

- > [Home Care](#) toolkit;
- > [Primary Care](#) toolkit;
- > [Residential Aged Care](#) toolkit;
- > [Legal Toolkit](#); and
- > [Working Together](#) toolkit.

The resources throughout the project are built upon the [ELDAC Care Model](#): eight key elements in identification, care planning and care delivery of palliative services in the community.

For more information

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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.

