Study Title: Upfront Family Meetings for in-patient Palliative Care Services

Brief description of the study: The aim of this study is to improve our communication with patients and their families specifically to determine if holding routine family meetings soon after the patient is admitted to palliative care improves communication, decision-making and discharge planning and allows patients and families to “take ownership” of these processes. 2. Study Objectives To improve communication with patients and their families, and specifically to determine if holding routine family meetings soon after a patient is admitted to the palliative care unit: • improves communication, decision-making, and discharge planning • reduces patient and family distress during the transition to palliative care • increases family participation in planning future care The study will explore the experience of routine early family meetings for patients and families, and also for the multidisciplinary team

Study Methodology: (Please mark with an x which type of study methodology)

- Epidemiology
- Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement [X]
- Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive [X]
- Mixed Method
- Systematic Review
- Intervention: RCT
- Intervention: Comparative or cohort study
- Intervention: Case series

Project details:

- Funding source (Optional): Cancer Institute NSW
- Has the study received ethics approval? [X] Yes  No  Not applicable
- Project starting date: 2013
- Project completion date: 2014
- Multi site: [X] Yes  No  Not applicable

Researchers

- Principal Investigator (name) Dr. Christine Sanderson

Contact Details Dr. Christine Sanderson Staff Specialist Calvary Health Care Kogarah 91 – 111 Rocky Point Road, Kogarah NSW 2217 P: (02) 9553 3093 E: christinersanderson@gmail.com
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<th>Investigator B (Name)</th>
<th>Professor Liz Lobb</th>
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<tr>
<td>Investigator C (Name)</td>
<td>Ms. Anne Johnson</td>
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<td>Investigator D (Name)</td>
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**Associated publications / reports:**

**Topics (Admin only) Communication, Families**