

*palli*PHARM

for residential and aged care communities

Most Australians nominate home, whether that be a private house or a residential aged care facility (RACF), as their preferred place for end-of-life care. However, if end-of-life symptoms are not well controlled, this can lead to unnecessary suffering and unplanned hospital admissions. To prevent such unwanted outcomes, all community-based palliative patients need rapid access to medicines to manage any emergent symptoms, thereby supporting people to die comfortably in the environment of their choice.

About *palli*PHARM

As part of the COVID-19 response, Queensland Health has commissioned *palli*PHARM to establish processes that ensure residents of RACFs and all other community-based palliative patients have timely access to palliative care medicines, if needed.

These processes will improve patient outcomes and provide a sustainable, high-value legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*palli*PHARM activities

During the next year *palli*PHARM will:

- Produce a statewide guidance document for Queensland health professionals to introduce a collaborative, standardised and cross-jurisdictional approach to the issue of palliative care anticipatory medicines
- Extend functionality of the palliMEDS app for General Practitioners (GPs)
- Provide interactive workshops for pharmacists and General Practitioners (GPs) to increase palliative care anticipatory prescribing, stocking of medicines and easy, safe access to those medicines for timely administration if required
- Develop a website, hosted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia with educational resources and useful links for Queensland pharmacists
- Communicate to the public, GPs and other health providers via primary health networks (PHNs) and Q-finder about community pharmacies that commit to holding palliative care medicines
- Encourage RACFs to embed appropriately stocked palliative care medicine imprest systems
- Provide RACFs with flexible policy and procedure templates to support safe and effective management of palliative care medicine imprest systems
- Ease carer burden by continuing to promote *caring@home* resources as well as other resources relating to anticipating and managing end-of-life symptoms at home.



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