CareSearch Project
Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma 0009

Study Title: Objective Assessment of the trajectory of the course of illness for end of life non cancer related diseases – biological, social and environmental determinants

Brief description of the study:

The major objective was to improve the accuracy of the clinician's estimate of the course of illness and of the end point in a persons life. The study was conducted by the analysis of the relationship between the clinician's prediction of life's end point and a range of other factors, some of which are normally collected, and other measures of a patient's well being and multi frequency bio-impedance which is able to determine body compositional changes. While the final analysis of the study has yet to be conducted due to the need for the majority of patients in the three groups of the study (Cardiac, Respiratory and Oncology) to reach their end point in life, there are some trends for the combined groups which indicate that the clinicians estimate of end point not surprisingly becomes more accurate as the end point nears. Results also indicated that the best predictor of rate of change (and arrival at end point) was the change in soft lean mass measured by bio-impedance. . In the cancer group the site of the cancer was a strong predictor as was the mini mental, with increasing scores being protective. The overall ASAS score is also a good indictor of illness trajectory with higher scores being disadvantageous. Unpacking the elements of the ASAS shows nausea, depression, anxiety and drowsiness and perception of wellbeing to be disadvantageous. In terms of biochemistry only for the cancer group was GGT able to predict survival with higher scores representing reduced longevity.

Further updates will be made as more patients reach their endpoint of their life trajectory it is only when the majority of the study groups have reached their end point when the most accurate predictions can be made

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

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

Project details:

Funding source (Optional): NHMRC (Pall Care)

Has the study received ethics approval?	**X**	Yes		No		Not applicable
Project starting date: 2003						
Project completion date: 2006						
Multi site:	**X**	Yes		No		Not applicable

RESEARCHERS

Principal Investigator (name)	**Professor Neil Piller**
Contact Details	Neil.piller@flinders.edu.au
Investigator B (Name)	Dr Greg Crawford
Investigator C (Name)	Dr Roger Hunt
Investigator D (Name)	Dr Julie Robinson
Investigator E (Name)	Prof Adrian Esterman
Associated publications / reports: **Interim reports presented at relevant Pall Care congress – final report in BMJ early 2007**	

Registration number 0009

Topics: Non-malignant disease, prognosis