CareSearch Project Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma	0017

Study Title: Improving medication management of palliative care patients: Enhancing the role of community pharmacists

Brief description of the study: Community pharmacists are amongst the most readily accessible health professionals and have the potential to contribute to the management of palliative care patients in the community. Most pharmacists, however, do not have the knowledge and confidence to contribute optimally in this area. This study aimed to develop and evaluate an educational program in palliative cancer care for Australian community pharmacists that would address educational needs and thereby improve their knowledge and confidence in the area. Following identification of pharmacists' educational needs using an iterative research process, an online educational program in palliative cancer care was developed. This involved module writing (including case studies and activities) and review by various palliative care and educational experts, transference of the developed materials to a web site on the Internet, and production of a CD-ROM. The flexible design and delivery of the program was shown to be successful, as pharmacists accessed it from anywhere at a time convenient to them, and participants engaged extensively with the material by submitting responses to the notice board activities. Following completion of the educational program, pharmacists perceived their knowledge and confidence in palliative cancer care to have increased and they were better able to communicate with palliative care patients and carers.

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): Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Third Community Pharmacy Agreement

Has the study received ethics approval?	**X**	Yes		No		Not applicable
Project starting date: 03/2004						
Project completion date: 02/2006						
Multi site:	**X**	Yes		No		Not applicable

RESEARCHERS	
Principal Investigator (name)	**Professor Roger L Nation**
Contact Details	Head of Department of Pharmacy Practice, Victorian College of Pharmacy, 381 Royal Pde, Parkville, VIC 3052. Ph: 9903 9061 E-mail: Roger.Nation@vcp.monash.edu.au
Investigator B (Name)	Professor Michael J Dooley
Investigator C (Name)	Dr Jennifer L Marriott
Investigator D (Name)	Dr Julia Fleming
Investigator E (Name)	Dr Simon Wein
Investigator F (Name)	Dr Maria Pisasale
Investigator G (Name)	Mr William (Bill) J Scott

Associated publications / reports:

Publications

Hussainy SY, Beattie J, Nation RL, Dooley MJ, Fleming J, Wein S, Pisasale M, Scott WJ, Marriott JL. Palliative care for patients with cancer: What are the educational needs of community pharmacists? *Support Care Cancer* 2006; 14 (2):177-184

Reports

Nation RL, Dooley MJ, Marriott JL, Fleming J, Wein S, Pisasale M, Scott WJ (report prepared by Beattie J and Hussainy SY). *Improving medication management of palliative care patients: Enhancing the role of community pharmacists*. Canberra, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, 2005.

Topics:
Pharmacists

Education and Training