CareSearch Project Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma	0029

Study Title: Evaluation of the Care Planning Sub-program of the Local Palliative Care Grants Program

Brief description of the study: The Centre for Health Service Development (CHSD) has been appointed as the National Evaluation Team (NET) to undertake a formative and summative evaluation of the Care Planning sub-program – a part of the Local Palliative Care Grants Program (LPCGP). To provide a comprehensive view of the overall functioning of the sub-program, the evaluation will be developed at both the sub-program and project levels.

The overall aims of the evaluation are knowledge generation, program improvement and the encouragement of best practice in care planning for palliative care patients. It is intended that the knowledge and learning generated across the sub-program will be disseminated widely to the palliative care sector in Australia.

The Care Planning sub-program aims to improve the use of care planning to: develop and implement flexible models of service delivery that meet the needs of each palliative patient in their local community; improve collaboration between services involved in providing care; and support the smooth and appropriate transition between settings of care, i.e. residential aged care facilities, the person's home and inpatient facilities.

Within the sub-program six types of projects have been funded:

1. Resources or tools for patients, families, carers or health professionals, including residential aged care staff, that assist in care planning.

2. Strategies that involve carers and families in planning for the care of the patient at key stages such as on discharge from hospital.

3. Projects that develop and trial strategies or models of care that enhance care planning of palliative care patients. These may include strategies to support the use of Medicare items for Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) plans and case conferencing by general practitioners and /or Medicare items for allied health services for people with chronic and complex care needs.

4. Projects that address the care planning needs of patients in particular population groups (e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, children, residents of aged care facilities).

5. Activities to support the translation of research on care planning into policy and practice, and

6. Projects to promote and support high quality evaluation of current palliative care initiatives in this area.

Study Methodology: (Please mark with an x which type of study methodology)	
	Epidemiology
X	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): The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Has the study received ethics approval?	**X**	Yes		No		Not applicable

Project starting date: November 2006

Project completion date: May 2009

Multi site:	**X**	Yes		No		Not applicable

RESEARCHERS

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Associated publications / reports:

Care Planning Sub-Program: findings from the national evaluation.

Care Planning Sub-Program: description of projects funded to improve care planning in palliative care.

Topics: Quality / Access / use of palliative care services, conducting research