CareSearch Project Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma	0046

Study Title: Group education program for family caregivers of home based palliative care patients

Brief description of the study:

The fundamental aim of palliative care is to achieve the best quality of life possible for dying patients and for their families. Assisting the family is a key aspect of the palliative care philosophy with both patient and family construed as the 'unit of care'. The family commonly play a central role in home-based palliative care, undertaking tasks such as symptom assessment and management, personal care and administering medications. Most palliative care patients want to be cared for at home and family caregivers provide the majority of the support needed. Without this contribution the well-being of most patients in palliative care would be compromised. This project seeks to prepare primary family caregivers for the role of supporting a relative/friend with advanced cancer by offering a group education program. Given that there is a dearth of research related to group education programs for this population it would be imperative to also evaluate the utility and applicability of the program in addition to its efficacy.

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 and Bethlehem Griffiths Research Foundation

Has the study received ethics approval?	**X**	Yes		No		Not applicable
Project starting date: April 2006						
Project completion date: April 2008						
Multi site:	**X**	Yes		No		Not applicable

RESEARCHERS

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Investigator E (Name)	Dr John Fisher
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Investigator G (Name)	Dr David Brumley
Investigator H (Name)	Mark Cockayne

Associated publications / reports:

Hudson P, Quinn K, Kristjanson L, Thomas K, Braithwaite M, Fisher J, Cockayne M (2008) Evaluation of a psycho-educational group programme for family caregivers in home-based palliative care. *Palliative Medicine*, 22,270.

Hudson P, Thomas K, Quinn K, Cockayne M, Braithwaite M (2009) Teaching family carers about home based palliative care: final results from a group education program. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Managemen*t 38:2, 299-308

Topics: Caregivers, Cancer and Cancer Care, Education and Training