CareSearch Project
Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma

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Study Title: Toward optimal facilitation of family meetings in palliative care

Brief description of the study:

Phase 1 - Development of the model: based on relevant guidelines from a literature review and contribution from an expert panel. The expert panel includes the research team, a family therapist/social worker, psychologist, clinical nurse consultant, medical consultant, and representatives for pastoral care and carers.

Phase 2 – Refinement of the model: a) Two focus groups: (i) in-patient specialty palliative care unit multidisciplinary staff from metropolitan units; (ii) consultative palliative care service representatives from three major metropolitan hospitals. Confirm model and conduct pilot with four family meetings.

Phase 3 – Evaluating the effectiveness of the model: will occur using a pre-test/post test design with patients (where pertinent if they attend), family members and health professionals (from Caritas Christi/St Vincent's Health). It is envisaged that a minimum of 28 family meetings will be required to achieve sufficient power for the purpose of analysis. A non-participant observer will attend five family meeting in the intervention phase.

Five Family Meeting Facilitators (FMF) will receive specific training to provide them with the skills required to conduct the family meetings.

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): Nurses Board of Victoria (The Mona Menzies Postdoctoral Research Grant 2006)

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

RESEARCHERS

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Associated publications / reports:

Hudson P, Quinn K, O'Hanlon B, Aranda S (2008) Family meetings in palliative Care: Multidisciplinary clinical practice guidelines. *BMC Palliative Care* 7:12.

Hudson P, Thomas T, Quinn K (2009) Family meetings in palliative care: are they effective? *Palliative Medicine,* 23,No 2,150-157.

Topics: Families, Communication Issues