CareSearch Project Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma	0100

Study Title: Improving the welfare and end of life experience for residents, families and staff: A case conferencing approach for older people living with advanced dementia or mental illness

Brief description of the study:

This project will design and implement a systemic case conferencing model specifically tailored to the residential aged care setting to improve the quality of end of life care and family support for residents who have advanced dementia. The feasibility of measurement of family and resident outcomes will also be assessed.

The morbidity and cognitive decline associated with advanced dementia combined with lack of systemic advanced care planning makes it difficult for clinicians to make care decisions that reflect the wishes of the resident and their families. Prior to the intervention the study will identify current practice, care planning barriers and challenges through a case conferencing observation and audit process of documented records. This gathered data will then be used to design a suitable model of case conferencing tailored to the aged care setting and end of life phase for advanced dementia.

The model will then be implemented with training support and any associated system changes needed within the particular organisational context that will support and embed sustainability of the chosen case conferencing model.

Post implementation data analysis will examine thematic analysis in a number of areas. These include satisfaction of relatives with end of life care for dementia, staff communication improvements, staff adherence to symptom assessment, symptom management, improvements in care transition processes and resident wishes detailed in advance care plans. In addition changes in prescribing relating to case conferencing and family outcomes will also be assessed.

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

	Epidemiology
	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 project is funded by the Commonwealth Dept of Health and Ageing (Local Palliative Care Grants round 5) and is due for completion by 2011

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

Project starting date: 1/06/2010

Project completion date: 31/5/2011						
Multi site: Minimum of six residential aged care facilities	**X**	Yes		No		Not applicable

RESEARCHERS

Principal Investigator (name)	**Dr Meera Agar**
Contact Details	Dr Meera Agar FRACP, FAChPM, MPallCare. Director of Palliative Care. Staff Specialist Palliative Medicine. Braeside Hospital Locked Bag 82, Wetherill Park 2164, NSW. Phone: 61 - 2 - 9616 8654 Fax: 61 - 2 - 9616 8657 email: meera.agar@sswahs.nsw.gov.au
Investigator B (Name)	Prof David Currow
Investigator C (Name)	Ms Meredith Gresham Research manager HammondCare
Investigator D (Name)	Mr Chris Rigby Managing Director Catholic Healthcare
Investigator E (Name)	A/Prof Katherine Clark

Associated publications / reports: None

Topics (Admin only) Aged Care Facility, Dementia, Care Planning