

CareSearch Project Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma		0126
Study Title: Caregivers' expectations and experiences of the use of home oxygen in the palliative setting		
Brief description of the study: Chronic breathlessness is a significant symptomatic problem across the community. In the setting of progressive life-limiting illnesses, even in the absence of apparent cardio-respiratory disease, both prevalence and intensity of breathlessness increase as death approaches. Home oxygen is widely prescribed for refractory breathlessness and this prescription frequently falls outside of the current funding guidelines. The majority of the research thus far has focused on the clinical management of breathlessness, however, no studies have yet been published from caregiver's perspectives in the palliative setting. From previous studies, it is known that caregivers exert considerable pressure on health care professionals for home oxygen for their loved one. Knowing the driving forces underpinning the prescribing of home oxygen, which is an expensive and often burdensome intervention, are important if the best evidenced-based practice for refractory breathlessness is to be implemented from a patients' and caregiver's perspectives. The aim of this study is to explore caregivers' expectations and experience of the use of long term home oxygen therapy for the treatment of refractory breathlessness in the palliative setting; and to gain insight into caregiver factors that influence the prescribing of oxygen for those people who do not qualify for publically funded home oxygen. In keeping with the aim of the project, a qualitative design will be used. Interviews will be used for data collection. This method is appropriate to gather the perspectives of caregivers who may not have had the opportunity to talk before about their lived experiences and expectations of home oxygen use. Apart from collecting demographic information relating to illness type, age and gender, broad questions will be asked around the use of oxygen, together with the caregiver's values and beliefs regarding this form of therapy in the setting of refractory breathlessness.		
Study Methodology: (Please mark with an x which type of study methodology)		
	Epidemiology	
	Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement	
X	Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive	
	Mixed Method	
	Systematic Review	
	Intervention: RCT	
	Intervention: Comparative or cohort study	
	Intervention: Case series	
Project details:		
Funding source (Optional): Early Career Research Grant, Flinders University Adelaide		

Has the study received ethics approval?	X	Yes		No		Not applicable
Project starting date: March 2013						
Project completion date: December 2013						
Multi site: Adelaide and Sydney	X	Yes		No		Not applicable
RESEARCHERS						
Principal Investigator		Dr Katrina Breden				
Contact Details: Katrina.breden@flinders.edu.au						
Investigator B -Professor David Currow						
Investigator C - Associate Professor Meera Agar						
Investigator D - Professor Jane Phillips						
Investigator E -Ms. Meg Hegarty						
Associated publications / reports:						
Topics (Admin only) Dyspnoea, Caregivers						