

CareSearch Project Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma				0132		
Study Title: Spaced Education in the Specialist Palliative Care Setting: Exploring its potential to improve pain management.						
Brief description of the study: Pain is almost universally experienced by people cared for by specialist palliative care nurses. Effective pain management is a complex process founded on robust assessment, intervention and reassessment. Yet, there is often little documented evidence of a comprehensive pain assessment having been routinely undertaken for palliative care patients who report having pain. Nurses' pain assessment capabilities are one of many factors that contribute to sub-optimal pain management. Translating existing evidence into practice is challenging and requires consideration of a range of targeted strategies, including educational interventions. Spaced Education is a novel form of on-line learning that has been demonstrated to increase knowledge, and retention of new knowledge, whilst demonstrating a capacity to change entrenched clinical practice. Aim: The primary aim of this study is to increase specialist palliative care nurses' complex pain assessment and management capabilities through 'Spaced Education'. Objectives: To determine the impact of Spaced Education on: i) specialist palliative care nurses' pain knowledge, attitudes and clinical behaviours; ii) the level and quality of nurses' pain assessment and reassessment documentation; iii) on patients' reports of pain and iv) explore the feasibility of using 'Spaced Education' in the specialist palliative care setting; and iv) the sample size needed to power a larger multi-site study. Data collection: Survey and chart audit and patient reported pain scores will be collected at four points in time: Time 1 (Baseline): Immediately prior to the intervention commencing; Time 2: Immediately following the completion of the intervention; Time 3: 8 weeks after the completion of intervention; and Time 4:16 weeks after the completion of intervention.						
Study Methodology: (Please mark with an x which type of study methodology)						
	Epidemiology					
	Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement					
	Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive					
	Mixed Method					
	Systematic Review					
	Intervention: RCT					
X	Intervention: Comparative or cohort study					
	Intervention: Case series					
Project details:						
Funding source (Optional): This project was funded by the Curran Foundation and a St Vincent's Clinic Multidisciplinary Research Grant.						
Has the study received ethics approval?		X	Yes		No	Not applicable
Project starting date: October, 2011						

Project completion date: In progress					
Multi site:	☒	Yes	☐	No	☐ Not applicable
RESEARCHERS					
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Associated publications / reports: Oral Presentations Phillips, J.L., Hickman, L., Heneka, N., and Shaw, T. (2012). Assessing specialist palliative care nurses pain assessment capabilities: identifying opportunities to improve patient outcomes. 16th Cancer Nurses Society Australia Conference, Hobart, 28-29 July 2012. Best Oral Presentation Award. Phillips, J.L., Hickman, L., Heneka, N., and Shaw, T. (2012). Can a novel on-line CPD program increase specialist palliative care nurses pain assessment capabilities and reduce patients' reported pain scores? WA Palliative Care Conference, Perth, WA 5 October 2012. Phillips, J.L., Heneka, N., Hickman, L., Lam, L., and Shaw, T. (2012). Enhancing interdisciplinary team pain assessment communication: Can Spaced Education improve comprehensive pain assessment practices in the specialist palliative care setting? Palliative Care NSW State Conference, Dubbo, 31 October - 2 November 2012. Phillips, J.L., Heneka, N., Hickman, L., Lam, L., and Shaw, T. (2012). The impact of an online Spaced Education module on specialist palliative care nurses' pain assessment documentation practices. Joint Meeting of International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS) 14th World Congress and Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) 39th Annual Scientific Meeting, Brisbane, 13-15 November 2012. Shortlisted Best of Best Oral Presentation. Poster Presentations Phillips, J.L., Hickman, L., and Shaw, T. (2012). Can a 'Spaced Education' on-line learning program change specialist palliative care nurses pain assessment capabilities and reduce patients' reported pain scores? 23rd Research Conference, Sigma, Theta Tau International, Brisbane, QLD – 30 July- 3 August 2012. Phillips, J.L., Heneka, N., Lam, L., and Shaw, T. (2012). Does a tailored Spaced Education' pain assessment module improve specialist palliative care nurses' pain assessment practices? Innovations in Cancer Treatment and Care NSW Conference, Sydney, 7 September 2012.					
Topics (Admin only) Knowledge translation, Pain and it's management, Palliative nursing					