CareSearch Project Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma	0184

Study Title: A systematic review of effectiveness of decision aids to assist older patients at the end of life

Brief description of the study: Objective To describe the range of decision aids (DAs) available to enable informed choice for older patients at the end of life and assess their effectiveness or acceptability. Methods Search strategy covered PubMed, Scopus, Ovid MEDLINE, EMBASE, EBM Reviews, CINAHL and PsycInfo between 1995 and 2015. The quality criteria framework endorsed by the International Patient Decision Aids Standards (IPDAS) was used to assess usefulness. Results Seventeen DA interventions for patients, their surrogates or health professionals were included. Half the DAs were designed for self-administration and few described use of facilitators for decision-making. Treatment: options and associated harms and benefits, and patient preferences were most commonly included. Patient values, treatment goals, numeric disease-specific prognostic information and financial implications of decisions were generally not covered. DAs at the end of life are generally acceptable by users, and appear to increase knowledge and reduce decisional conflict but this effectiveness is mainly based on low-level evidence. Conclusions Continuing evaluation of DAs in routine practice to support advance care planning is worth exploring further. In particular, this would be useful for conditions such as cancer, or situations such as major surgery where prognostic data is known, or in dementia where concordance on primary goals of care between surrogates and the treating team can be improved. Practice implications Given the sensitivities of end-of-life, self-administered DAs are inappropriate in this context and genuine informed decision-making cannot happen while those gaps in the instruments remain.

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

	Epidemiology
X	Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement
	Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive
	Mixed Method
	Systematic Review
	Intervention: RCT
	Intervention: Comparative or cohort study
	Intervention: Case series

Project details:

Funding source (Optional): NHMRC program grant

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

CareSearch is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

Project starting date: March 2015						
Project completion date: October 2016						
Multi site:	**X**	Yes		No		Not applicable
Researchers						
Principal Investigator (name) Dr Magnolia Cardona-Morrell						
Contact Details +61 2 8738 9373 m.cardonamorrell@unsw.edu.au						
Investigator B (Name) Mr Gustavo Benfatti-Olivato						
Investigator C (Name) Dr Jesse Jansen						
Investigator D (Name) Dr Robin M Turner						
Investigator E (Name) Prof Ken Hillman						
Associated publications / reports: Cardona-Morrell M, Benfatti-Olivato G, Jansen J, Turner RM, Fajardo-Pulido D, Hillman K. A systematic review of effectiveness of decision aids to assist older patients at the end of life. Patient Educ Couns. 2017 Mar;100(3):425-435. doi: 10.1016/j.pec.2016.10.007. Epub 2016 Oct 11.						
Topics (Admin only) Older people, Decision making						