



Barwon South Western Region
Palliative Care

The Palliative Approach Newsletter

June 2015 - Issue 11

The Palliative Approach Newsletter is a newsletter aimed at enhancing communication across residential and community aged care and disability services that are relevant to all staff. Each quarter we provide an update on education that's been held and information on upcoming opportunities for professional development. I welcome your input to the newsletter, so if you would like to contribute to the Palliative Approach Newsletter, please email myra.mcrae@barwonhealth.org.au

Link Nurse Program for RNs, EENs and ENs

The Link Nurse Program continues to be well attended with four two day workshops in Geelong and Colac to date. We have two more planned in Geelong in July and September and two in Colac however dates still to be confirmed for Colac.

We have held two workshops for personal care workers in aged care and carers' in disability services in Geelong. Unfortunately two were also planned for Colac but have had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest. We can only assume this is due to their being little personal care workers in the workforce in Colac. Further workshops are planned in Geelong in August and October and flyers will be available soon with all relevant details.

All our education is provided free of charge and are catered for by Steampacket Foods, Geelong. These days are an ideal opportunity to network with staff from other facilities, receive up to date evidence based practice information on clinical care and information and resources on implementing the key processes in a palliative approach i.e. Advance Care Planning, Palliative Care Case Conferencing and End of Life Care Pathways.

Palliative Approach Toolkit

Please see the link below to the Palliative Approach Toolkit for Residential Aged Care Facilities. The 'toolkit' has been delivered to all residential aged care facilities in Australia to encourage a consistent approach to care for our residents. The Palliative Approach Toolkit website has been upgraded with access to the toolkit and many more resources. I hope you can take the time to have a look here:

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/3629/Default.aspx>

Upcoming Education and Resources

Dr. Caroline Murtagh held the first of four lectures on palliative care in Camperdown in May 2015. This lecture was extremely well attended and the feedback was terrific. Dr. Murtagh's second lecture is being held on Thursday 13th August, 2015 and will focus on 'Pain Management in Palliative Patients Part 2 & Management of Breathlessness and Secretions. Please visit our website www.bswrpc.org.au for more details.

Dates for Upcoming Palliative Approach Education

- Link Nurse 2 day workshop on the 16th and 31st July now fully booked.
- Link Nurse 2 day workshop on the 9th and 24th September almost fully booked only two places left.
- PCW/Disability Services 1 day workshop on the 11th August in Geelong - open for registrations
- PCW/Disability Services 1 day workshop on the 13th October in Geelong - open for registrations

Please note: further dates for palliative approach education in Geelong and Colac to be confirmed.

New resource for Advanced Care Planning

I mentioned this resource in my last newsletter in March and have decided to include it again in this newsletter as it is a fantastic website with lots of information on advance care planning by Dr. Charlie Corke. Please have a look and see what you think at www.myvalues.org.au

Niki T34 Syringe Driver Training

REM Systems who supply the Niki T34 Syringe Drivers have a training DVD that can be purchased for \$10. I highly recommend the DVD to be utilized as a staff competency on a regular basis. It is easy to understand and has a trouble-shooting section which will definitely be helpful. If you would like to purchase the DVD please contact Linda Lanham Senior Territory Manager, REM Systems on 0413 119 944 or email: llanham@remsystems.com.au Linda or I will provide education on the Niki T34 free of charge on request.

Informal Education Sessions at your RACF

If you have attended one of our Palliative Approach Workshops you are eligible to request a one hour informal education session at your facility at no cost. Please advise the topic related to palliative care / palliative approach and we can negotiate a suitable date and time.

We also provide secondary consultation so if you have any concerns or questions regarding a resident/ client please give us a call on the number below.

Decision Assist

A great resource to enhance the provision of palliative care and advance care planning services to the aged nationally, the Australian Government has funded the Specialist Palliative Care and Advance Care Planning Advisory Services (Decision Assist) Project.

Decision Assist have established an advisory service to general practitioners and aged care staff in all areas of Australia, 24 hours / day, 7 days / week via national **1300 668 908**. If you have any questions on either ACP or Palliative Care please call them or visit their website for more information.

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/tabid/2583/Default.aspx>

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