

Palliative Aged Care Link Nurse Newsletter, Issue 2, April 2013

Welcome to issue 2 of the Palliative Aged Care Link Nurse Newsletter!

Advance Care Planning in Residential Aged Care

Advance Care Planning in Aged Care Workshop held 27th March at McKellar Centre was attended by 12 aged care nurses from Barwon Health and private facilities in the Geelong area. A great deal of interest was shown from participating nurses who know the importance of having effective conversations and documenting resident's wishes. An expression of interest will be sent to facilities in the southern end of the Barwon sub-region for a similar day later this year.

"Affirming Life" publication

Distribution of the "Affirming Life" books is currently underway. Ten copies are being delivered to each facility on the link nurse program for lending to residents and families. These publications are now out of print therefore very precious. It is recommended facilities apply stickers advising families either 'not to remove' or 'please return'.

Link Nurses 2012

A requirement of the funding received for link nurse education, all link nurses who attended the 2012 training sessions are requested to attend a follow up workshop. Dates are Geelong on 30th April, and Colac 2nd May. Agenda will include post education evaluations, networking/discussion opportunities and a workshop on "Gastrointestinal Symptom Management" by Jill Carter, Palliative Care Consultancy Team."

Link Nurses 2013

The next link nurse support network group training sessions are planned for Geelong, Bellarine and Colac. The training sessions will be held over two days instead of three based on feedback from link nurses last year. Link nurses can attend whichever venue suits best. Dates are:

Geelong 15th May and 3rd June - Newcomb CHC
Bellarine 21st May and 13th June - Leopold Lodge
Colac 7th May and 19th June -Corangamarah RAC

Upcoming Education

The 2012 link nurses identified several areas of interest for further education. Self-care/bereavement care, dementia care, multicultural issues at end of life and communication strategies.

A workshop is planned for **24th June, 2013** facilitated by Professor Fran McInerney on Dementia care. A flyer will be circulated shortly for registrations.

October 10th, 2013 will see a workshop on self care and grief, communication and multiculturalism at end of life. A flyer will be circulated in August for those interested in attending. Please note these workshops are open to everyone including link nurses and post PEPA students.



Barwon Medicare Local Palliative Breakfast

In early March I was invited to attend the Barwon Medicare Local Palliative Special Interest Group Breakfast. I provided information on the background of my role and an update of achievements to date.

Many GP's were unaware of this new role and the support offered to aged care staff. The response was very positive from all GP's in attendance, many asking for more details on the training being offered. Hopefully we can all work together to improve communications between aged care staff and GP's resulting in improved care for all residents in the future.



Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA)

A reminder to those of you who would like to have some hands on experience and training in a palliative care environment that PEPA are currently offering placements. PEPA includes clinical workforce placements of up to five days with a specialist palliative care service at little to no cost to yourself or your employer.

Visit <http://www.pepaeducation.com/health-professionals/aged-care-staff.aspx> for further information to apply.



PEPA Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach
Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Website: www.bswrpc.org.au
Reminder about the tab for link nurses to access articles of interest including: education opportunities, medication conversions, medication compatibilities, the palliative approach toolkit, and much more.

CareSearch has a new RAC Hub, dedicated solely to assist residential aged care staff in their delivery of palliative care.
www.caresearch.com.au

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