PA Toolkit Closure

Residential Aged Care
Palliative Approach Toolkit

About the PA Toolkit

The Palliative Approach (PA) Toolkit was a set of clinical, educational and management resources designed to guide and support residential aged care facilities to implement a comprehensive, evidence-based, person-centred, and sustainable approach to palliative care for appropriate residents. The model of care underpinning the PA Toolkit used a resident's estimated prognosis to trigger three key clinical processes.

The PA Toolkit was developed as a series of project funded under the Encouraging Better Practice in Residential Aged Care (EBPRAC) Initiative. Initial development and pilot-testing of the PA Toolkit model of care undertaken by University of Queensland/BlueCare was completed in 2009-2010 and aligned with the Palliative Approach in Residential Aged Care (APRAC) Guidelines. A national rollout of the 2009-2010 PA Toolkit for Residential Aged Care Facilities led by Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative was completed between 2012 and 2015. In 2015, additional resources for careworkers were developed and in 2015-2016 workshops for locums and deputising service practitioners were held. In early 2015, CareSearch entered into an agreement within Brisbane South to support sustainable access to the PA Toolkit resources via a web-based presence.

CareSearch developed a digital version of the PA Toolkit making it accessible to the aged care community from 2015 to 2020. However, since the PA Toolkit was first developed in 2009, there have been many changes to the evidence base for palliative for older people and major changes to the way that aged care is provided in Australia. New projects and resources such as palliAGED and End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC) have also been released to support the aged care sector. As a result it was decided in late 2019 to retire the PA Toolkit. It was also agreed that the closure would be accompanied by a mapping of alternate resources that would redirect PA Toolkit users to other sources of quality information to help them in providing palliative care to aged care clients and residents. This work was undertaken by Professors Jennifer Tieman, Deb Parker, and Liz Reymond who each led aspect of the development of the web-based PA Toolkit.

Completing the transition

A Content Transition Plan examined options for each individual element of the PA Toolkit including webpages, PDFs, and videos. A preferred option was identified and this formed the basis for automatic redirects and for the summary of alternate sources. A summary of alternate aged care resources was developed as well as a mapping document for common issues in palliative care. These were seen as critical in ensuring ongoing access to quality resources for the aged care workforce.

Some additional content was created for inclusion in the palliAGED, CareSearch, and ELDAC websites to ensure that all elements of the PA Toolkit could be continued.

A promotional campaign informed the aged care sector that the PA Toolkit would be closed and notices were included on the homepage of the PA Toolkit website. The PA Toolkit site was closed on Tuesday 30 June 2020.

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