

palliPHARM

for residential and aged care communities

Most Australians nominate home, whether that be a private house or a residential aged care facility (RACF), as their preferred place for end-of-life care. However, if end-of-life symptoms are not well controlled, this can lead to unnecessary suffering and unplanned hospital admissions. To prevent such unwanted outcomes, all community-based palliative patients need rapid access to medicines to manage any emergent symptoms, thereby supporting people to die comfortably in the environment of their choice.

About palliPHARM

As part of the COVID-19 response, Queensland Health has commissioned *palliPHARM* to establish processes that ensure residents of RACFs and all other community-based palliative patients have timely access to palliative care medicines, if needed.

These processes will improve patient outcomes and provide a sustainable, high-value legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic.

palliPHARM activities

- Produced the *Community-based palliative Care Anticipatory Medicines: Guidance for Queensland* document for Queensland health professionals to introduce a collaborative, standardised and cross-jurisdictional approach to the issue of palliative care anticipatory medicines
- Extended functionality of the palliMEDS app for General Practitioners (GPs)
- Provided interactive workshops for pharmacists and General Practitioners (GPs) to increase palliative care anticipatory prescribing, stocking of medicines and easy, safe access to those medicines for timely administration if required
- Developed a website, hosted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia with educational resources and useful links for Queensland pharmacists
- Communicated to the public, GPs and other health providers via primary health networks (PHNs) and Q-finder about community pharmacies that commit to holding palliative care medicines
- Encouraged RACFs to embed appropriately stocked palliative care medicine imprest systems
- Provided RACFs with flexible policy and procedure templates to support safe and effective management of palliative care medicine imprest systems
- Eased carer burden by continuing to promote *caring@home* resources as well as other resources relating to anticipating and managing end-of-life symptoms at home.



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More information:

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