

Augmented *caring@home* package for carers

(includes Emergency COVID-19 pack)

FACTSHEET



COVID-19 presents an unprecedented challenge for patients, carers and health professionals in Australia. During this pandemic, aspects of palliative care delivery will change, though the goals of palliative care will not.

The augmented *caring@home* package for carers, funded by the Australian Government, is a resource for service providers, to not only provide patient-centred care, but also limit risks of community COVID-19 transmission.

How does the augmented *caring@home* package for carers support care?

The augmented *caring@home* package contains the regular *caring@home* package for carers plus the emergency COVID-19 pack. These packs are for use when hospital or community clinicians are unable to insert subcutaneous cannulas in palliative patients at home, for example if adequate PPE is not available.

It is expected that the emergency COVID-19 *caring@home* pack will only need to be considered for use during the COVID-19 pandemic. It can be removed leaving the 'regular' package to be used for patients not at risk, or diagnosed with, COVID-19.

Using the emergency COVID-19 *caring@home* pack

Using the resources contained in the emergency COVID-19 *caring@home* pack, health professionals can teach the volunteer carer(s) how to insert a cannula and/or how to give a subcutaneous injection using remote communication (e.g. telehealth or telephone).

As with the 'regular' *caring@home* resources, the emergency COVID-19 *caring@home* pack can only be used if an education session is delivered by a health professional along with a 24-hour phone support line for the carer to ensure safety and to provide advice and reassurance.

caring@home aims to improve the quality of palliative care service delivery across Australia by developing resources that will support people to be cared for, and to die at home, if that is their choice.

Resources, applicable to all jurisdictions, are available for organisations, health care professionals and carers to support carers to help manage breakthrough symptoms safely using subcutaneous medicines for a terminally ill person in their care.

These resources have been used extensively by health professionals across Australia.



What does the augmented *caring@home* package for carers include?

1. Regular *caring@home* package for carers
2. Emergency COVID-19 *caring@home* pack:
 - Starter pack of clinical items for training and practise
 - Step-by-step guides, information sheets and USB short training videos
 - See over the page for detailed information about the included educational and clinical items.

Components of the emergency COVID-19 *caring@home* pack

Education for carers

Information for carers: Helping to provide palliative care for a person at home during the COVID-19 pandemic	This one-page information sheet explains to carers why they need to insert a cannula, or give an injection.
Video: Inserting a subcutaneous cannula	The video clearly shows each step in the process of inserting a subcutaneous cannula into a person.
Inserting a subcutaneous cannula: <i>A step-by-step guide</i>	This illustrated guide explains how to insert a subcutaneous cannula using a step-by-step approach.
Video: Giving a subcutaneous injection	The video clearly shows each step in the process of giving a subcutaneous injection to a person.
Giving a subcutaneous injection: <i>A step-by-step guide</i>	This illustrated guide explains how to give a subcutaneous injection using a step-by-step approach.

Clinical items

Item	Number	Function
Subcutaneous cannula	2	One can be used by the carer to practise using with the foam dressing.
Waterproof transparent dressing	2	One can be used by the carer to practise covering the subcutaneous cannula to secure it in place.
Smart-valve connector (needle-free connector)	2	One can be used by the carer when practising with the cannula.
Foam dressing	1	It can be used by the carer when practising with the cannula.
Combi stoppers (syringe caps)	4	
Blunt drawing-up needles	3	
Subcutaneous needles – 25 gauge	3	
Luer-lock syringes – 1mL and 3mL	15	
Alcohol wipes	6	

How to order

To order or find local distribution points, email: caringathome@health.qld.gov.au

For more information visit: www.caringathomeproject.com.au or phone: **1300 600 007**