

ABSTRACT TITLE (12 words)

caring@home supports delivery of quality home-based palliative care by primary care teams

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Abstract body (300 words)**Background**

Primary care services, including General Practices, community nursing, aged care, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services, allied health and pharmacies, are increasingly required to manage end-of-life care for patients. Most of these people will have one or more chronic diseases, reside in the community and likely wish to be cared for at home for as long as possible and perhaps to die there.

Aim

caring@home aims to develop end-of-life resources for primary health professionals to support standardised best-practice processes of care planning inclusive of optimal symptom management, communication between sectors and quality improvement.

Methods

caring@home together with key clinical stakeholders from every State and Territory in Australia reviewed existing resources and developed new resources for the primary health workforce.

Results

Recently developed resources include those that support:

- Primary health clinicians to use the 'Prompts for End-of-Life Planning (PELP) Framework', a guide that allows a standardised proactive approach for managing the last twelve months of life
- Symptom management at end of life including:
 - A National Core Community Palliative Care Medicines List
 - palliMEDS app revised with paediatric content added
 - Terminal care planning checklist for General Practice
- Quality improvement processes, in particular, an end-of-life planning clinical audit for clinical services to routinely collect accurate end-of-life audit data

Conclusion

caring@home continues to develop resources to support delivery of quality palliative and end-of-life care by primary health professionals for home-based patients wishing to achieve death at home. The resources enable proactive end-of-life planning, optimal symptom management and communication between primary care and other sectors.