

Title	Massage Therapy: adding a welcome touch to the interdisciplinary team.
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Abstract	<p>In meeting the needs of patients and their families, an interdisciplinary model of care depends upon collaboration between health care professionals and, when effective, is characterised by a seamless coordination of discipline-specific expertise, along with mutual goal setting and transferability of skills wherever possible and beneficial. This presentation will illustrate how the massage therapist contributes to the interdisciplinary team, supporting the effectiveness of teams and enhancing outcomes for patients and their families. Massage therapy has evidence-based application across the physiological, psychological and spiritual domains of palliative care and thus has the capacity to participate in cross team care provision alongside medical and nursing care, music therapy, family support and pastoral care. Within the interdisciplinary model of care, as exemplified by Eastern Palliative Care, a community based specialist palliative care service, such team partnering may include: supporting the clinical management of lymphorrhoea, nausea or pain; developing strategies with family support staff to alleviate anxiety or to mitigate carer burden; or with music therapy or pastoral care to create opportunities for reflection and meaning finding. Specialist palliative care massage therapists with professional development in the areas of assessment, grief and bereavement, therapeutic communication and cultural responsiveness occupy a valuable role within the interdisciplinary team.</p>