

Title	Lessons from the Carer Project: Changing practice in an established Palliative Care Community Team to make us fit for the future in caring for carers
Number	73
Authors	Kate Weyman, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney Sandra Sullivan, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney
Abstract	<p>Introduction Literature abounds with research on carers and their impact on keeping palliative care patients safe and well at home for longer (Hudson, 2013). The Centre for Palliative Care have recognised the importance of carers and developed the clinical practice guidelines (2010) to support family caregivers. These guidelines provide a comprehensive resource as well as the framework for our project. The project was well supported by the NSAP team. Method The project ran from May 2013 until March 2014. The aims of which were focussed on five key areas of documentation related to carer identification, role, assessment, information availability and carer needs. The project utilised a Quality Improvement methodology with a series of PDSA cycles to address identified barriers. Result Initial audits of documentation showed great scope for improvement in these key areas. Assumed barriers were identified through brainstorming and included: who documents, issues related to EMR, challenges with communication and patient/carer cultural issues all impacting on documentation. Quality cycles focused on improving documentation through the development and use of a standardised assessment tool along with education of staff. Conclusion Monthly audits revealed a steady improvement in documentation. This poster will focus on the lessons learned through the experience of the project along with identifying the impact on the team in relation to assessment and support of the carers.</p>