

# Improving the provision of palliative services: A randomised controlled trial of the use of enhanced primary care items and educational interventions - the Palliative Care Trial

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<b>Registration date</b> 23/07/2003	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 23/06/2022	<b>Condition category</b> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

**Plain English summary of protocol**  
Not provided at time of registration

## Contact information

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

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## Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number

## Secondary identifying numbers

N/A

# Study information

## Scientific Title

Improving the provision of palliative services: A randomised controlled trial of the use of enhanced primary care items and educational interventions - the Palliative Care Trial

## Acronym

PCT

## Study objectives

The Palliative Care Trial (PCT) is a pragmatic 2 x 2 x 2 factorial cluster randomized controlled trial that tests the ability of educational outreach visiting and case conferencing to improve patient-based outcomes such as performance status and pain intensity.

## Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

## Ethics approval(s)

All 13 relevant independent human research ethics committees and institutional review boards approved the PCT.

## Study design

Randomised controlled trial

## Primary study design

Interventional

## Secondary study design

Randomised controlled trial

## Study setting(s)

Other

## Study type(s)

Quality of life

## Participant information sheet

## Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Palliative Care

## Interventions

461 consenting patients and their GPs were enrolled into a randomised controlled trial set up in a 2x2x2 factorial clustered design of:

- A coordinated palliative care model centred on case conferencing versus the standard model of palliative care in Adelaide (3:1 randomisation).

- Educational outreach visiting for the patient's GP, versus the routine teaching currently offered by the service (1:1 randomisation).
- Educational outreach visiting for the patient, versus the routine teaching currently offered by the service (1:1 randomisation).

An interaction term from the 2x2 analysis of GP education and patient education allows evaluation of the interaction between these two interventions.

**Intervention Type**

Other

**Phase**

Not Applicable

**Primary outcome measure**

Randomisation 1: performance status on the Australian-modified Karnofsky Performance Status Scale

Randomisations 2 & 3: pain intensity on a 0-10 visual analogue scale (VAS)

**Secondary outcome measures**

Other outcome measures include control of other symptoms, health resource utilization, and quality of life.

**Overall study start date**

15/04/2002

**Completion date**

30/11/2004

**Eligibility****Key inclusion criteria**

Because an aim of this study was to improve specialized palliative healthcare delivery, the eligibility criteria were broad. All adult patients referred to the Southern Adelaide Palliative Services with any form of pain in the preceding 3 months were eligible after providing written informed consent. Participants were mentally competent at enrollment (Folstein Mini-Mental State Examination Score  $\geq 24$ ).

**Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Age group**

Adult

**Sex**

Not Specified

**Target number of participants**

461

**Total final enrolment**

461

**Key exclusion criteria**

Patients who were expected to die within 48 hours of referral and who lived out of the geographic region served by the team were excluded.

**Date of first enrolment**

15/04/2002

**Date of final enrolment**

30/11/2004

**Locations****Countries of recruitment**

Australia

**Study participating centre**

**Southern Adelaide Palliative Services**

Daw Park

Australia

5041

**Sponsor information****Organisation**

Repatriation General Hospital (Australia)

**Sponsor details**

Southern Adelaide Palliative Services

700 Goodwood Road

Daw Park

Australia

5041

**Sponsor type**

Hospital/treatment centre

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/04b0n4406>

**Funder(s)**

**Funder type**

Government

**Funder Name**

Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (Australia)

## Results and Publications

**Publication and dissemination plan**

Not provided at time of registration

**Intention to publish date****Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**

Not provided at time of registration

**IPD sharing plan summary**

Not provided at time of registration

**Study outputs**

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Other publications</a>	Performance measure results	12/11/2005		Yes	No
<a href="#">Protocol article</a>	protocol	01/02/2006		Yes	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>		24/10/2012	23/06/2022	Yes	No