

Research *newsletter*



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Princess Alice
Hospice

January 2022

For Excellence. For Compassion. For People. For Living.

Welcome to the Princess Alice Hospice Annual Research Newsletter

2021 was a very challenging year for everyone but there is excellent research being undertaken in Palliative and End of Life Care despite the current circumstances. Princess Alice Hospice (PAH) is proud to be participating in some of the studies that are currently underway. We are working on generating our own research projects within the Hospice and continue to support studies from our external academic colleagues.

New Medical Lead for Research

Dr Jennifer Todd has stepped down as Medical Lead for Research at the Hospice having taken on the role of Medical Director. We are very grateful for the many years of support Jennifer has given to research at the Hospice where, along with research colleagues, she has ensured that research is part of core business. **Thank you very much Jennifer!**

We are fortunate to have **Dr Emily Sills**, Palliative Medicine Consultant, who has taken on the role of Medical Lead for Research. Emily has a keen interest in research and believes it is vital that hospices continue to play a role in research to support the development of our services and contribute towards the evidence base.



Dr Emily Sills
Medical Lead for Research

Current studies

Improving end of life care: supporting the workforce and reducing hospitalisations through an implementation study in care homes

We continue to participate in this large national NIHR funded study by **Dr Liz Forbat** from the University of Stirling. Dr Forbat undertook a [similar study in Australia](#) evaluating Palliative Care “Needs Rounds” in care homes— support for care home staff caring for residents approaching the end of life was provided during the monthly Needs Rounds. The study demonstrated cost savings due to reduced hospital admissions and also improved quality of death/dying. The UK study will assess if the same benefits can be demonstrated here.

Clare Lawrance, a Clinical Nurse Specialist, is facilitating the monthly Needs Rounds in 6 local care homes providing valuable support to the staff around the needs of residents approaching the end of life.

The study is due to finish in July 2022.

Follow the study’s progress on [Twitter](#) [@NeedsRounds](#).

Please see the latest Needs Rounds study newsletter [here](#)



Clare Lawrance
Needs Rounds
Facilitator

Improving Community based Palliative Care outside of normal working hours

We have now completed recruitment for Phase 2B and 2C of the [King's College London - Understanding and improving community-based palliative care outside of normal working hours](#) study and look forward to the results of this important work.



Forthcoming studies



The ALLIANCE Study

We are very excited to be participating in the NIHR funded **ALLIANCE study: Enhancing the quality of living and dying with advancing frailty through integrated care partnerships: Building research capacity and capability**, led by Professor Caroline Nicholson from the University of Surrey.

This project aims to establish a cross-sectoral, research-ready Partnership to deliver co-produced, clinically applied translational research focused on enhancing the quality of living and dying with advancing frailty. The project will begin in February 2022.

Other universities and organisations joining the Partnership are the University of Nottingham, St Christopher's Hospice, London Ambulance Service, University of Kent and Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Patient responses to Advance Care Planning

We will be facilitating a project by a previous PAH registrar, **Dr Rowena Eason**, who is undertaking an MSc investigating **patient responses to Advance Care Planning**. Recruitment will begin in January 2022.

Conferences

PALLIATIVE CARE CONGRESS, MARCH 2021

PAH staff presented 4 posters at the virtual Palliative Care Congress.

HOSPICE UK CONFERENCE, LIVERPOOL, NOVEMBER 2021

6 members of staff attended the Hospice UK conference in Liverpool. It was exciting for colleagues to attend a conference in person and they came away inspired to pass on learnings to hospice colleagues. Our staff presented 4 posters and delivered 1 oral presentation.



All posters can be viewed on our [website](#).

Recent publications by Princess Alice Hospice staff

- ◆ We undertook a service evaluation of video consultations during the pandemic—our results were published as a short report in the BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care [Video hospice consultation in COVID-19: professional and patient evaluations](#)
- ◆ Our medical director, Dr Jennifer Todd has published her research study looking at the role of specialist palliative care for people with dementia in the last 12 months of life in the Journal of Dementia Care. [Specialist palliative care for people with dementia](#)
- ◆ [Support interventions provided during palliative care to families with dependent children when a parent has terminal illness: a scoping review protocol](#)
- ◆ [‘Parenteral nutrition complications in palliative medicine](#)
- ◆ [Oral symptoms in patients with advanced cancer: an observational study using a novel oral symptom assessment scale](#)
- ◆ [Inappropriate use of naloxone in a hospital setting compromising patient safety: a quality improvement project](#)

Research strategy workshop

Our Research Strategy is due to be refreshed this year. We are planning a Strategy Refresh Workshop on the **15th March 2022**—the event will be attended by service users, external academics and staff from across the organization to help us prioritise our research activity and to ensure that our research strategy is aligned with our organisational strategy. We will report back on progress in our next newsletter.

Thank you for your interest in research at Princess Alice Hospice

Wishing you a happy, healthy and successful 2022

From

The Princess Alice Hospice Research Team

If you would like to apply to do research with us, please visit our website [here](#) for further information.

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