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## **Measuring Up: Evaluating an Online Resource for Palliative Care**

### **Abstract:**

Finding relevant and high quality information can be difficult and frustrating for anybody. But when a person has a life limiting illness the need for reliable and easily accessible information becomes even more important. The CareSearch website provides the health community and the general public with up to date information and links to quality resources in palliative care. New materials produced specifically for patients, carers and GPs were released in 2007 and a major redevelopment of the site will be launched in May 2008.

One of the challenges for the project has been designing and managing an evaluation program. Online resources have become common but understanding the contribution these resources make to knowledge exchange and to health outcomes remains complex. For the CareSearch Project a series of performance indicators and projects have been designed to assess how the resource is being used and to evaluate its relevance to the palliative care community. Part of this process involved identifying the component elements for effective redevelopment of the resource and designing formative evaluation strategies. A series of summative evaluation activities has also been planned.

The various evaluation activities look at a specific element or component of the website development or website resources as well as contributing to the overall evaluation strategy for the project.

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