PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH
Information for Prospective Participants – Phase II

QUANTum study
QUAlity CompreheNsive End-of-Life Care: STandard Five study

Research team contacts

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What is the purpose of the research?
The purpose of this Delphi study is to achieve consensus of opinion on the optimal processes and outcomes for meeting the end-of-life care actions in the Comprehensive Care Standard of the second edition of the NSQHS standards as per a panel of experts. This will ultimately help to optimise application of the end-of-life care actions by providing nationally relevant recommendations.

Are you looking for people like me?
We are looking to recruit a panel of experts and stakeholders to participate in a Delphi study. If you are a clinician, or hospital administrator, or safety and quality officer and are currently employed at an acute care facility that is assessed against the NSQHS standards we would like you to hear from you. Alternatively, if you have at least 5 years of experience in a palliative care or safety and quality related field; are recognised as an opinion leader at a local, state or national level; and have a good overview of palliative care and safety and quality in your state or Australia, we would really like to hear from you!

What will you ask me to do?
Your participation will involve completing three confidential online questionnaires, over a period of 6 weeks. Every 2 weeks we will send you an email asking you to answer a questionnaire. Each of the three questionnaires will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Questionnaires do not have to be completed in one sitting. You can save your answers and complete it later.

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to review responses from a national survey regarding processes and outcomes to address the end-of-life care actions and then will be asked to quantitatively rate the appropriateness of each response in your opinion. You can also provide free-text data to explain your answer or suggest new processes and/or outcomes. In questionnaires 2 and 3 you will see how the rest of the study participants rated each item and have a chance to change your answers if you wish to do so. Your opinions will be captured using a five point Likert-type scale, rating responses to statements from ‘entirely disagree’ to ‘entirely agree’, and via free-text responses. There will be no face-to-face communication and you will not be identifiable to others who are taking part. This process will continue until a group consensus is achieved or three Delphi rounds have been completed. In order to allow timely conclusion of the study we would respectfully request a response.
time of 1 week for completion of each round.

We will send you one reminder and then if we haven’t heard from you we will assume that you don’t wish to take part and remove you from the list of participants (for each of the 2nd and 3rd questionnaires we will send up to two reminders).

You will be required to complete each item of the survey before being permitted to advance. You will also be permitted to revisit items and to change your responses. This will be possible during completion of questions and prior to the final confirmation step.

**Are there any risks for me in taking part?**

The research team does not believe there are any risks beyond normal day-to-day living associated with your participation in this research. It should be noted that if you do agree to participate you can withdraw from the research project during your participation without comment or penalty.

**Are there any benefits for me in taking part?**

It is expected that this project will not benefit you directly. However, this study will optimise application of the end-of-life actions and to ultimately provide data to help create a framework for continuous improvement in the quality and effectiveness of the delivery of end-of-life care in acute settings. This work will ultimately contribute to improved delivery of safe and high-quality end-of-life care in Australia.

**Will I be compensated for my time?**

No, but we would very much appreciate your participation in this research.

**Who is funding this research?**

This research is funded by a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Centre for Research Excellence in End-of-Life Care (ELC); however they will not have access to personally identifying information about you that may be obtained during the research project.

**I am interested – what should I do next?**

If you’d like to participate, please contact the principal investigator, Dr Elise Button by email at e.button@qut.edu.au or use the following link to read the Participant information sheet and express your interest:


**Thank You!**

QUT Ethics Approval Number: 1800001027