

2015/2016 Summer Studentship Project Application Form

Send to: Research Office, University of Otago Christchurch, PO Box 4345, Christchurch, by 5pm on **3 July 2015**

Supervisor Information (First named supervisor will be the contact):

Supervisor's Name and Title(s): Dr Kate Grundy

Department: Oncology

Institution: CDHB

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Research Category (Choose one category only – to be used for judging the students' presentations):

Clinical

Laboratory

Community

Project Title (20 words MAXIMUM):

Measuring a 'good' death in CDHB

Project Description:

Introduction:

As doctors, most of us will care for patients who are dying. For the majority of patients, their death is 'expected' in that it can be predicted some days, weeks or months in advance. In this situation, our goal is to achieve a 'good' death by working with patients and their families/whanau to ensure that they feel informed, that inappropriate tests and treatments are discontinued and that the patient's physical, psychological and spiritual needs are met. To accomplish this goal, it is important to identify cases where care at the end of life is either exemplary or substandard. Only by identifying these cases, can care be improved.

Aim:

To test and refine an audit tool designed to capture aspects of a persons' death, particularly for those where death was expected. The tool should be applicable for use in any healthcare setting in CDHB and able to be completed retrospectively from case notes. The ultimate goal is a tool that would be used to measure the 'quality' of death for patients within CDHB.

Method:

Work is currently underway to develop an audit tool using a sequential cohort of deceased patients who were under the care of the oncology service, and will be complete by October 2015.

Quality indicators will use an if-then statement

Quality Indicator = No. of patients who received the specified intervention/No. of patients for whom the intervention was indicated

The student will apply the audit tool to a cohort of patients who died in the wider Christchurch Hospital/Princess Margaret Hospitals, Nurse Maude Hospice and selected Residential Care Facilities within Christchurch by retrospectively reviewing case notes.

The performance of the audit tool will be tested by:

The student abstractor taking notes on feasibility of using the indicators

Comparing the student abstractor with an expert abstractor in a subset of patients

Student Prerequisites (eg. Medical Student) if applicable:

No preference