

2016/2017 Summer Studentship Project Application Form

Send to: Research Office, University of Otago Christchurch, PO Box 4345, Christchurch, by 5pm on **4 July 2016**

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

First Supervisor's Name and Title: Dr Kate Grundy

Department - UOC &/or CDHB (if applicable): CDHB

First Supervisors Phone: 0272428975

First Supervisors Email: kate.grundy@cdhb.health.nz

First Supervisors Mailing Address: Oncology Department, Christchurch Hospital, Private Bag 4710, Christchurch

Co-Supervisors Name and Title(s): Dr Rachel Wiseman, Dr David Gibbs

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: Validation of a tool for retrospectively measuring quality of death

Project Description:

Introduction:

During 2015/2016, a tool was created for retrospectively analyzing clinical notes of deceased patients in order to determine the quality of death. The tool audits holistic aspects of care for those that are dying, producing a final score that reflects how many domains of care were achieved for the patient. The ultimate goal is that by using a standardized tool, areas of excellence or deficiency in the care of the dying can be identified as part of a quality improvement process.

Aim:

To validate the tool that has already been created to audit quality of dying. To ensure that the tool is robust, repeatable and accurate. To measure the resource required to apply the tool to deaths within Christchurch Hospital within the study period.

Possible impact (in lay terms):

Validation of the Quality of Dying tool is a step towards the ultimate goal of applying this tool to all deaths within CDHB. As part of a quality improvement process, this would allow areas of excellence to be championed and areas of deficiency to be identified and mitigated. Measurement of resource expended during the project would give an indicator of requirements when implementing a wider roll-out.

Method:

The tool would be validated by measuring:

Intra-observer variability. The tool is already in use within the Oncology Department, intra-observer variability will be measured by two separate recordings by the same individual months apart, facilitated by the student.

Inter-observer variability. The student will be required to blindly 'double' audit deaths within CDHB with a team of researchers within the Oncology department who are familiar with the tool.

Staff feedback. The student will seek staff feedback about deaths within Christchurch Hospital during the study period by questionnaire, to ensure that outcomes from the tools are consistent with staff opinion of individual deaths

The project will measure time and resource required to apply the tool to deaths within Christchurch Hospital during the project period.

The student will be responsible for performing statistical analysis, with assistance from Dr David Gibbs