The Residential Aged Care End of Life Care Pathway (RAC EoLCP)

The Residential Aged Care End of Life Care Pathway (RAC EoLCP) document is a consensus-based best practice guide to providing resident centred care during the last days of life and is an integral component of the Palliative Approach Toolkit (PA Toolkit).

Background

In 2006 the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) funded the Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative (BSPCC) to produce an end-of-life pathway tailored for use within Australian residential aged care facilities (RACFs).

Evaluations in Queensland show that when implemented in conjunction with a supportive framework, the RAC EoLCP improves outcomes for dying residents as well as the quality of palliative care provided by RACFs. RACF clinical staff report that the RAC EoLCP is easy to use and has improved their confidence in delivering palliative care.

The RAC EoLCP was further evaluated nationally in the DoHA funded, University of Queensland / Blue Care Research and Practice Development Centre led, Encouraging Best Practice in Residential Aged Care Project.

Key Points

- The RAC EoLCP has 5 sections which have been designed to provide comprehensive documentation of the end-of-life care provided to a resident.
- The entire document is to be placed in the resident’s notes and forms part of their medical record.
- Depending on individual RACF policies and procedures it may be possible to replace existing documentation and charting requirements when the RAC EoLCP document is commenced.

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