

# Palliative Care & Cancer Services Research



**Western Health** is one of Victoria's largest health care services and provides services to a population of approximately 800,000 people. The West of Melbourne has one of the most culturally diverse communities in the country with 38% speaking over 100 different language at home.

**Western Health Palliative Care Service** treats malignant and non-malignant patients alike. The service consists of 4 Consultants, 4 Clinical Nurse Consultants and an advanced Trainee Registrar. The WH service has a strong and long working relationship with the region's community palliative care provider - Mercy palliative care.

Western Health has more than 25 years' experience conducting **Clinical Trials** with strong collaborative working relationships with the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC), Cancer Trials Australia, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and major cooperative trial groups.

**Palliative Care Clinical Trials at Western Health** are incorporated in the **Cancer Services** clinical trials unit, with the same leadership and staff. Our Palliative Care Clinical Trials are building a strong reputation, including links with the VCCC's Palliative Care Clinical Trials Collaboration and being actively involved in the RAPID series Palliative Care Trials.

**2019:**  
Palliative Care Research commenced at Western Health  
**End of 2020:**  
Total of 162 patients enrolled in whole of unit trials.

- 2020:**
- More than 20 Principal Investigators
  - 1 Fellow
  - 9 Research Nurses
  - 2 Study Coordinators
  - 3 Support Staff

## Recent successful trials:

- **Palliative Care** - Phase 3 Clinical Trial accrued targeted number of patients in a first 8 months, approx. a quarter of the overall accrual time.
- **Rapid Series** – 14 streams; 156+ patients recruited

## Palliative Care Clinical Trials



## Referral sources

- **SMART** clinic
- **Cross referrals** from within Western Health services
- **Mercy Palliative Care**

## For more information please contact:

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For information about current trials visit the Victorian Cancer Trials Link at [www.cancervic.org.au/trials](http://www.cancervic.org.au/trials)

## Linkages:

- **SMART** (Symptom Management and Referral Team) Outpatients Clinic: a partnership between Western Health Palliative Care, Pharmacy Teams and Mercy Palliative Care.
- The **Wellcare Program**: a Day Hospice service in joint service with Mercy Palliative Care, that provides care, support and respite for patients from the Western region.