



iCAHE JC Critical Appraisal Summary

Journal Club Details

Journal Club location	Flinders Medical Centre, rehabilitation, Aged and Palliative Care (RAPC)
JC Facilitator	Pamela Hewavasam
JC Discipline	Speech Pathology

Question

NA

Review Question/PICO/PACO

P: N/A

I: N/A

C: N/A

O: N/A

Article/Paper

Kelly, K, Cumming, S, Kenny, B, Smith-Merry, J & Bogaardt, H 2018, 'Getting comfortable with "comfort feeding": An exploration of legal and ethical aspects of the Australian speech-language pathologist's role in palliative dysphagia care', *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, DOI: 10.1080/17549507.2018.1448895, pp.1-9.

Please note: due to copyright regulations CAHE is unable to supply a copy of the critically appraised paper/article. If you are an employee of the South Australian government you can obtain a copy of articles from the [DOHSA librarian](#).

Article Methodology: Narrative Review

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Ques No.	Yes	Can't Tell	No	Comments
1	✓			<p>Did the review address a clearly focused question?</p> <p>Not an explicit question, but had a clear research focus: to explore the medico-legal and ethical framework for palliative dysphagia management in Australia.</p>
2		✓		<p>Did the authors look for the appropriate sort of papers?</p> <p>As there was no explicit method described as to how articles were located, it is difficult to assess if all appropriate papers/resources were assessed. The authors stated that "This review provides a general outline of medicolegal and ethical aspects of palliative dysphagia management to increase SLPs' awareness of a range of important issues." The lack of a described method considerably weakens the paper's level of evidence.</p> <p>Is it worth continuing? YES- for purposes that the paper provides background information to answer the research focus.</p>
3		✓		<p>Do you think the important, relevant studies were included?</p> <p>No method was described. Only that the review "Is based on the most accurate information located by the authors at the time of submission."</p>
4			✓	<p>Did the review's authors do enough to assess the quality of the included studies?</p> <p>No attempt to appraise the quality of the studies reviewed.</p>
5				<p>If the results of the review have been combined, was it reasonable to do so?</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
6				<p>What are the overall results of the reviews?</p> <p>"Speech-language Pathologists (SLPs) have a role in palliative dysphagia management, however, this can involve unique legal and ethical challenges. The legal position on provision and cessation of nutrition and hydration differs between Australian States and Territories. Decisions by the courts have established a body of relevant case law. This article introduces SLPs to some of the important considerations for legal and ethical palliative care, but is not intended to be directive. SLPs are encouraged to explore their local options for ethical and medico-legal guidance."</p>
7				<p>How precise are the results?</p> <p>Not applicable.</p>

8	Journal Club to discuss	<p>Can the results be applied to the local population?</p> <p>CONTEXT ASSESSMENT (please refer to attached document)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure - Available workforce (? Need for substitute workforce?) - Patient characteristics - Training and upskilling, accreditation, recognition - Ready access to information sources - Legislative, financial & systems support - Health service system, referral processes and decision-makers - Communication - Best ways of presenting information to different end-users - Availability of relevant equipment - Cultural acceptability of recommendations <p>Others</p>
9		Were all important outcomes considered?
10		Are the benefits worth the harms and costs?
11		What do the study findings mean to practice (i.e. clinical practice, systems or processes)?
12		<p>What are your next steps?</p> <p>ADOPT, CONTEXTUALISE, ADAPT</p> <p>And then (e.g. evaluate clinical practice against evidence-based recommendations; organise the next four journal club meetings around this topic to build the evidence base; organize training for staff, etc.)</p>
13		What is required to implement these next steps?

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