**Abstract submitted for the 4th Rural Health and Research Congress**

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**Congress stream:** No 4: Partnerships and integrated care – connecting rural people and services

**Alternate stream:** No 6: Connecting through transfer – right care, right place, right time

**Abstract Title:** Against all Odds! A Chronic Palliative Integrated Approach – Inspiration, Integration and Collaboration.

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**Background**

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) spans the spectrum of health, optimising the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of Chronic Care Patients. End of Life

Management has been poorly addressed and the coordination of services has been fraught

with confusion for the patient. Lack of specialist resources in rural areas, and role definition

has led to ineffective use of health resources in managing End of Life for patients with

COPD.

**Approach**

A case study demonstrating “A Chronic Palliative Integrated Approach” in managing the palliative phase of patients living with COPD in rural Western NSW. It explores horizontal and vertical integration of an interdisciplinary service delivery, spanning the continuum of care for patients with COPD, highlighting care coordination, communication, access and patient centred care.

**Outcomes/ Results:**

This case study demonstrates how effective partnerships and integration of care can be achieved in rural health services, to optimise end of life for patients with COPD.

**Take Home Message:**

* Patients are our inspiration.
* Communication is the key to integration and collaboration