

Summary of National Report on Patient Outcomes in Palliative Care in Australia (January to June 2014)



The Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration has just released the latest national report presenting outcomes from January to June 2014.

The national figures are based on information submitted by 93 palliative care services, of which:

- 53 are inpatient palliative care services.
Inpatient palliative care services include patients who have been seen in designated palliative care beds as well as non-designated bed consultations.
- 27 are community palliative care services.
These services include primarily patients seen in the community as well as some patients with ambulatory/clinic episodes.
- 13 are palliative care services which provide both inpatient and community care.

PCOC National Report Highlights

- There were 16,833 patients seen by palliative care services with a total of 21,518 episodes and 49,643 phases.
- 52% of episodes occurred in the inpatient palliative care setting.
- 8 of 14 benchmarks were met across both the inpatient and community palliative care settings (Benchmarks 4.1 – 4.8).
- Two additional benchmarks were met in the inpatient palliative care setting:
 - Time from date ready for care to episode start (Benchmark 1)
 - Patients with absent/mild pain at phase start, remaining absent/mild at phase end (Benchmark 3.1).
- The average length of an inpatient episode of care was 10.9 days and the average length of a community episode of care was 40 days.
- The average number of phases per inpatient episode of care was 2.3 and the average number of phases per community episode of care was 2.1.
- The most common phase was the deteriorating phase. There were a total of 17,690 deteriorating phases (30% of inpatient phases and 42% of community phases) which, on average, lasted 5.6 days in the inpatient setting and 13.5 days in the community setting.
- 49% of palliative care patients died during this 6-month period, of these:
 - 70% died in hospital
 - 30% died in the community.
- 79% of palliative care patients had a malignant diagnosis.
- Public hospitals were the most common source of referral to palliative care, with 52% of inpatient episodes and 50% of community episodes referred by a public hospital.