

Summary of Report on Patient Outcomes in Palliative Care in New South Wales (January to June 2014)



The Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration has just released the latest New South Wales state report presenting patient outcomes from January to June 2014.

This NSW report is based on information submitted by 22 inpatient palliative care services. The NSW report does not include information on community palliative care settings, due to the small number of services submitting data. All other state reports include data from community palliative care settings.

New South Wales PCOC Report Highlights

- There were 2,721 patients seen by NSW inpatient palliative care services with a total of 3,109 episodes and 8,905 phases.
- 12 of the 14 benchmarks were met across the inpatient setting (benchmarks 1, 3.1-3.3, 4.1-4.8). See page two for more information.
- The most improved benchmark was patients with moderate/severe pain at phase start, with absent/mild pain at phase end (Benchmark 3.2). Performance for this benchmark improved by 4.7 percentage points from a score of 55.5% in report 16 to 60.2% in the current report.
- The average length of an inpatient episode of care was 13.4 days.
- The average number of phases per inpatient episode of care was 2.8.
- The most common phase was the unstable phase. There were a total of 2,681 unstable phases (30% of all phases) which, on average, lasted 2.2 days.
- 71% of patients died during this 6-month period in the inpatient setting.
- 85% of patients had a malignant diagnosis.
- Public hospitals were the most common source of referral to palliative care, with 45% of inpatient episodes referred by a public hospital.