

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



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

This Queensland state report is based on information submitted by 26 services:

- 14 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.
- 8 are community palliative care services.
These services include primarily patients seen in the community as well as some patients with ambulatory/clinic episodes.
- 4 are palliative care services which provide both inpatient and community care.

Queensland PCOC Report Highlights

- There were 3,628 patients seen by Queensland palliative care services with a total of 4,787 episodes and 9,343 phases.
- 62% of episodes occurred in the inpatient palliative care setting.
- 8 of the 14 benchmarks were met across both the inpatient and community palliative care settings (Benchmarks 4.1-4.8).
- An additional three 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 and 3.3).
- The most improved benchmark was in the inpatient setting for percentage of patients unstable for 3 days or less (Benchmark 2). Performance for this benchmark improved by 5.9 percentage points from a score of 68.1% in report 16 to 74% in the current report.
- The average length of an inpatient episode of care in Queensland was 8.8 days and the average length of a community episode of care was 39.1 days.
- The average number of phases per inpatient episode of care was 1.9 and the average number of phases per community episode of care was 1.6.
- The most common phase in the inpatient setting was the deteriorating phase. There were a total of 2,019 deteriorating phases (33% of inpatient phases) which, on average, lasted 5.6 days.
- The most common phase in the community setting was the stable phase. There were a total of 1,313 stable phases (42% of community phases) which, on average, lasted 25.6 days.
- 45% of patients died during this 6-month period, of these:
 - 76% died in hospital
 - 24% died in the community.
- 81% of patients had a malignant diagnosis.
- Public hospitals were the most common source of referral to palliative care, with 61% of inpatient episodes and 53% of community episodes referred by a public hospital.