

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



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

The South Australian state report is based on information submitted by 12 services:

- 2 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.
- 7 are community palliative care services.
These services include primarily patients seen in the community as well as some patients with ambulatory/clinic episodes.
- 3 are palliative care services which provide both inpatient and community care.

South Australian PCOC Report Highlights

- There were 1,256 patients seen by South Australian palliative care services with a total of 1,641 episodes and 2,939 phases.
- 52% 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 benchmark was met in the inpatient setting: Time from date ready for care to episode start (Benchmark 1).
- The most improved benchmark was in the community setting for Time from date ready for care to episode start (Benchmark 1). Performance for this benchmark improved by 7.4 percentage points from a score of 79.7% in report 16 to 87.1% in the current report.
- The average length of an inpatient episode of care in South Australia was 11 days and the average length of a community episode of care was 46.2 days.
- The average number of phases per inpatient episode of care was 2 and the average number of phases per community episode of care was 1.5.
- The most common phase in the inpatient setting was the deteriorating phase. There were a total of 647 deteriorating phases (37% of inpatient phases) which, on average, lasted 7.1 days.
- The most common phase in the community setting was the stable phase. There were a total of 532 stable phases (44% of community phases) which, on average, lasted 29.4 days.
- 53% of patients died during this 6-month period, of these:
 - 70% died in hospital
 - 30% died in the community.
- 82% of patients had a malignant diagnosis.
- Public hospitals were the most common source of referral to palliative care, with 52% of inpatient episodes and 46% of community episodes referred by a public hospital.