

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



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

The Victorian figures are based on information submitted by 18 services:

- 10 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.
- 6 are community palliative care services.
These services include primarily patients seen in the community as well as some patients with ambulatory/clinic episodes.
- 2 are palliative care services which provide both inpatient and community care.

Victorian PCOC Report Highlights

- There were 4,886 patients seen by Victorian palliative care services with a total of 6,278 episodes and 12,459 phases.
- 58% of episodes occurred in the community setting.
- 8 of the 14 benchmarks were met across both the inpatient and community settings (Benchmarks 4.1-4.8).
- An additional benchmark that was met in the inpatient palliative care 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 13.6 percentage points from a score of 62.2% in report 16 to 75.8% in the current report.
- The average length of an inpatient episode of care in Victoria was 10.9 days and the average length of a community episode of care was 39.3 days.
- The average number of phases per inpatient episode of care was 2.2 and the average number of phases per community episode of care was 1.7.
- The most common phase was the deteriorating phase. There were a total of 4,961 deteriorating phases (33% of inpatient phases and 46% of community phases) which, on average, lasted 6.7 days in the inpatient setting and 18.3 days in the community setting.
- 45% of patients died during this 6-month period, of these:
 - 62% died in hospital
 - 38% died in the community.
- 75% of patients had a malignant diagnosis.
- Public hospitals were the most common source of referral to palliative care, with 47% of inpatient episodes and 58% of community episodes referred by a public hospital.