

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



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

The Western Australian state report is based on information submitted by 9 services:

- 5 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.
- 2 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.

Western Australian PCOC Report Highlights

- There were 2,765 patients seen by Western Australian palliative care services with a total of 3,600 episodes and 11,591 phases.
- 68% of episodes occurred in the community palliative care setting.
- 10 of the 14 benchmarks were met across both the inpatient and community settings (Benchmarks 1, 2, 4.1-4.8). See page two for more information.
- An additional benchmark was met in the inpatient setting: patients with absent/mild pain at phase start, remaining absent/mild at phase end (Benchmark 3.1).
- Two additional benchmarks were met in the community setting: patients with moderate/severe pain at phase start, with absent/mild pain at phase end (Benchmark 3.2 and 3.4).
- 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 3.7 percentage points from a score of 92.9% in report 16 to 96.6% in the current report.
- The average length of an inpatient episode of care in Western Australia was 9.5 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 and the average number of phases per community episode of care was 3.6.
- The most common phase was the deteriorating phase. There were a total of 5,150 deteriorating phases (38% of inpatient phases and 46% of community phases) which, on average, lasted 4.2 days in the inpatient setting and 9.5 days in the community setting.
- 41% of patients died during this 6-month period, of these:
 - 38% died in hospital
 - 62% died in the community.
- 75% of patients had a malignant diagnosis.
- Public hospitals were the most common source of referral to palliative care, with 68% of inpatient episodes and 45% of community episodes referred by a public hospital.