

# Summary of Report on Patient Outcomes in Palliative Care in New South Wales (July to December 2014)



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

This New South Wales report is based on information submitted by 21 inpatient palliative care services.

The New South Wales 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 2,855 patients seen by NSW inpatient palliative care services with a total of 3,338 episodes and 9,537 phases.
- 10 of the 14 benchmarks were met (Benchmarks 1, 3.1, 4.1 - 4.8).
- The most improved benchmark was time from date ready for care to episode start (Benchmark 1). The result for this benchmark improved by 2.9 percentage points from a score of 93.5% in the previous report to 96.4% in the current report.
- The average length of an inpatient episode of care was 13.1 days.
- The average number of phases per inpatient episode of care was 2.9.
- The most common phase was the unstable phase. There were a total of 2,768 unstable phases (29% of all phases) which, on average, lasted 2.2 days.
- 71% of patients died during this 6-month period in the inpatient setting (i.e. in hospital).
- 82% 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.