

Summary of Report on Patient Outcomes in Palliative Care in Queensland (July to December 2014)

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



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

- 13 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 community palliative care services.
- 5 palliative care services which provide both inpatient and community care.

Queensland PCOC Report Highlights

- There were 4,115 patients seen by Queensland palliative care services with a total of 5,424 episodes and 10,497 phases.
- 61% of episodes occurred in the inpatient setting.
- 4 benchmarks were met in the inpatient setting - Benchmark 1 (time from date ready for care to episode start) and Benchmarks 3.1-3.3 (measures of pain management)
- 1 benchmark was met in the community setting - Benchmark 1 (time from date ready for care to episode start)
- In addition, 2 of the 8 X-CAS benchmarks were met – Benchmark 4.2 (PCPSS Other symptoms) and Benchmark 4.4 (PCPSS Psychological/spiritual).
- The most improved benchmark was in the community setting for time in unstable phase (Benchmark 2).
- Results for this benchmark improved by 17.4 percentage points from a score of 40.8% in the previous report to 58.2% in the current report.
- The average length of an inpatient episode of care in Queensland was 8.5 days and the average length of a community episode of care was 30.7 days.
- The average number of phases per inpatient episode of care was 2.0 and the average number of phases per community episode of care was 1.7.
- The most common phase in the inpatient setting was the deteriorating phase. There were a total of 2,175 deteriorating phases (33% of inpatient phases) which, on average, lasted 5.4 days.
- The most common phase in the community setting was the stable phase. There were a total of 1,636 stable phases (42% of community phases) which, on average, lasted 21.5 days.
- 45% of patients died during this 6-month period, of these:
 - 79% died in hospital
 - 19% died in the community.
- 79% of patients had a malignant diagnosis.
- Public hospitals were the most common source of referral to palliative care, with 64% of inpatient episodes and 54% of community episodes referred by a public hospital.