

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

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



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

- 10 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 community palliative care services.
2 palliative care services which provide both inpatient and community care.

Victorian PCOC Report Highlights

- There were 5,150 patients seen by Victorian palliative care services with a total of 6,708 episodes and 13,542 phases.
- 59% of episodes occurred in the community setting.
- Only 1 of all 14 benchmarks was met and this was in the inpatient setting only - Benchmark 1 (time from date ready for care to episode start).
- The most improved benchmark was time in unstable phase (Benchmark 2) for both settings. The result for this benchmark improved by 3.2 and 10.9 percentage points in the inpatient and community settings respectively.
- The average length of an inpatient episode of care in Victoria was 10.4 days and the average length of a community episode of care was 36.3 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 1.8.
- The most common phase was the deteriorating phase. There were a total of 5,483 deteriorating phases (35% of inpatient phases and 45% of community phases) which, on average, lasted 6.3 days in the inpatient setting and 17.5 days in the community setting.
- 46% of patients died during this 6-month period, of these:
 - 61% died in hospital
 - 38% died in the community.
- 74% of patients had a malignant diagnosis.
- Public hospitals were the most common source of referral to palliative care, with 46% of inpatient episodes and 55% of community episodes referred by a public hospital.