

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

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



The Western Australian state report is based on information submitted by 10 services:

- 6 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.
- 2 are palliative care services which provide both inpatient and community care.

Western Australian PCOC Report Highlights

- There were 3,242 patients seen by Western Australian palliative care services with a total of 4,065 episodes and 12,446 phases.
- 64% of episodes occurred in the community setting.
- 3 benchmarks were met in the inpatient setting - Benchmark 1 (time from date ready for care to episode start), Benchmark 2 (time in unstable phase) and Benchmark 3.1 (maintaining absent/mild PCPSS pain).
- 3 benchmarks were met in the community setting - Benchmark 1 (time from date ready for care to episode start), Benchmark 2 (time in unstable phase) and Benchmark 3.2 (controlling moderate/sever PCPSS pain).
- All of the 8 X-CAS benchmarks were met.
- The most improved benchmark was in the inpatient setting for change in PCPSS pain (Benchmark 3.2). Results for this benchmark improved by 3.9 percentage points from a score of 46.9% in the previous report to 50.8% in the current report.
- The average length of an inpatient episode of care in Western Australia was 8.7 days and the average length of a community episode of care was 38.3 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 3.3.
- The most common phase was the deteriorating phase. There were a total of 5,678 deteriorating phases (40% of inpatient phases and 48% of community phases) which, on average, lasted 4.9 days in the inpatient setting and 8.6 days in the community setting.
- 43% of patients died during this 6-month period, of these:
 - 48% died in hospital
 - 51% died in the community.
- 74% of patients had a malignant diagnosis.
- Public hospitals were the most common source of referral to palliative care, with 68% of inpatient episodes and 43% of community episodes referred by a public hospital.