

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



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

The national figures are based on information submitted by 95 services, of which:

- 53 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.
- 27 are community palliative care services.
- 15 are palliative care services which provide both inpatient and community care.

PCOC National Report Highlights

- There were 18,310 patients seen by palliative care services with a total of 23,449 episodes and 53,467 phases.
- 52% of episodes occurred in the inpatient palliative care setting.
- In the inpatient setting Benchmark 1 (time from date ready for care to episode start) and Benchmark 3.1 (change in PCPSS pain) were met. No benchmarks were met in the community setting.
- The average length of an inpatient episode of care was 10.6 days and the average length of a community episode of care was 35.8 days.
- The average number of phases per inpatient episode of care was 2.3 and the average number of phases per community episode of care was 2.0.
- The most common phase was the deteriorating phase. There were a total of 19,402 deteriorating phases (32% of inpatient phases and 42% of community phases) which, on average, lasted 5.5 days in the inpatient setting and 12.7 days in the community setting.
- 50% of palliative care patients died during this 6-month period, of these:
 - 72% died in hospital
 - 27% died in the community
- 77% of palliative care patients had a malignant diagnosis.
- Public hospitals were the most common source of referral to palliative care, with 52% of inpatient episodes and 49% of community episodes referred by a public hospital.