

New South Wales snapshot Patient Outcomes in Palliative Care (January to June 2015)



The Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration is a voluntary program partnering with 26 palliative care services across New South Wales to improve patient outcomes through benchmarking. Following is a snapshot of the key outcomes in patient care for the participating services from January to June 2015.

This New South Wales report is based on information from 24 inpatient palliative care services meeting requirements for reporting. You can find the full report at <http://ahsri.uow.edu.au/pcoc/reports/state/index.html>.

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.

Highlights of New South Wales services reporting to PCOC

- PCOC palliative care services provided 3,633 episodes of care to 3,180 patients in this period.
- Most improved patient outcome was responsiveness to urgent needs for patients in hospital (unstable phase).
- Two benchmarks were met in the inpatient setting only (one for timely hospital admission; one for pain management).
- Patient outcomes for pain management, severity of other symptoms, family and carers, psychological or spiritual problems, distress from nausea, breathing problems and bowel problems were above the national average.
- For participating services, the average length of stay for a patient in hospital was 12.5 days (national average 10.9 days).
- 2,259 (71%) of patients from participating services died during this 6-month period.
- 83% of patients had a malignant diagnosis and 16% of patients had a non-malignant diagnosis.