

## Queensland snapshot

### Patient Outcomes in Palliative Care

#### January to June 2015



The Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration is a voluntary program partnering with 32 palliative care services across Queensland 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.

You can find the full report at <http://ahsri.uow.edu.au/pcoc/reports/state/index.html>.

This Queensland report is based on information from 26 services meeting requirements for reporting:

- 15 inpatient palliative care services.
- 7 community palliative care services.
- 4 palliative care services which provide both inpatient and community care.

#### Highlights of Queensland services reporting to PCOC

- PCOC palliative care services provided 5,313 episodes of care to 4,055 patients in this period.
- 66% of palliative care episodes occurred in the hospital (inpatient setting).
- The most improved patient outcome overall was in the community setting and was responsiveness to urgent needs of patients (unstable phase).
- Three benchmarks were met in the inpatient setting, one for timely hospital admission and two for pain management, while only one benchmark was met in the community setting (timely admission to service).
- Patient outcomes for family and carers problems, psychological or spiritual problems, severity of other symptoms and distress from breathing problems were above the national average.
- Areas for improvement include: managing patient distress from nausea and bowel problems. In this report these patient outcomes were below the national average.
- For participating services, the average length of stay for a patient in hospital was 8.6 days (national average 10.9 days).
- Average length of time that care was provided for a patient in the community was 35.4 days (national average 38.3 days).
- 1,813 (45%) of patients from participating services died during this 6-month period, of these: 82% died in hospital; 17% died in the community.
- 82% of patients had a malignant diagnosis and 18% of patients had a non-malignant diagnosis.

Please contact PCOC if you require additional or customised information.