

Victorian snapshot

Patient Outcomes in Palliative Care

January to June 2015



The Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration is a voluntary program partnering with 22 palliative care services across Victoria 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 Victorian report is based on information from 21 services meeting requirements for reporting:

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

Highlights of Victorian services reporting to PCOC

- PCOC palliative care services provided 7,476 episodes of care to 5,910 patients in this period.
- 60% of palliative care episodes occurred in the home or aged care facility (community setting).
- Pain management was the most improved patient outcome for both inpatient and community patients.
- Two benchmarks were met in the inpatient setting only (one for timely hospital admission; one for pain management).
- Patient outcomes for family and carers, psychological or spiritual problems, breathing problems and bowel problems were above the national average.
- Areas for improvement include severity of other symptoms and distress from nausea, as patient outcomes were below the national average.
- For participating services, the average length of stay for a patient in hospital was 11.8 days (national average 10.9 days).
- Average length of time that care was provided for a patient in the community was 39 days (national average 38.3 days).
- 2,595 (44%) of patients from participating services died during this 6-month period, of these: 64% died in hospital; 34% died in the community.
- 74% of patients had a malignant diagnosis and 26% of patients had a non-malignant diagnosis.

Please contact PCOC if you require additional or customised information.