



PALLIATIVE CARE OUTCOMES COLLABORATION (PCOC)

A national approach towards the routine assessment of palliative care outcomes and quality



Overview

- Summary of background and progress
- Data assessment tools
- Potential for services to measure palliative care outcomes and quality



What is PCOC?

- National voluntary network that will assist:
 - to improve practice
 - meet the *Standards for providing Quality Palliative Care for all Australians*
 - comply with ACHS accreditation standards as a by-product of participation



A collaboration between four centres

Funded by the Australian Government

- Centre for Health Service Development (CHSD), UoW
 - Professor Kathy Eagar
- Western Australian Centre for Cancer and Palliative Care (WACCPC) CUT
 - Professor Linda Kristjanson
- Institute of Health & Biomedical Innovation (IHBI), QUT
 - Professor Patsy Yates
- Department of Palliative and Supportive Services (DPSS) FUSA
 - Professor David Currow



Staff

The four Chief Investigators are supported by:

- National Manager
- Training Manager
- Data and IT manager
- Statisticians
- Zone coordinators
- Administrative support



How does PCOC work?

- Services volunteer to be involved:
 - Initial discussion at service level
 - Registration process
 - Systems developed for data collection and extraction
 - Staff training and education
 - Data are sent to CHSD for analysis
 - Report sent back to service
 - Services can use data for quality activities
 - Services can then have input into further data items
 - Benchmarking partners identified
 - Benchmarking relationships established



Contact with Palliative Care Services

- In each state, Zone Coordinators are progressively meeting services to collect PCOC data
- Version 1 data collection began in April 2006 with a small number of services
- Disparity of practices, different models of care and resources available and variation in IT use and availability presenting real challenges to PCOC
- Despite this, first report published February 2007



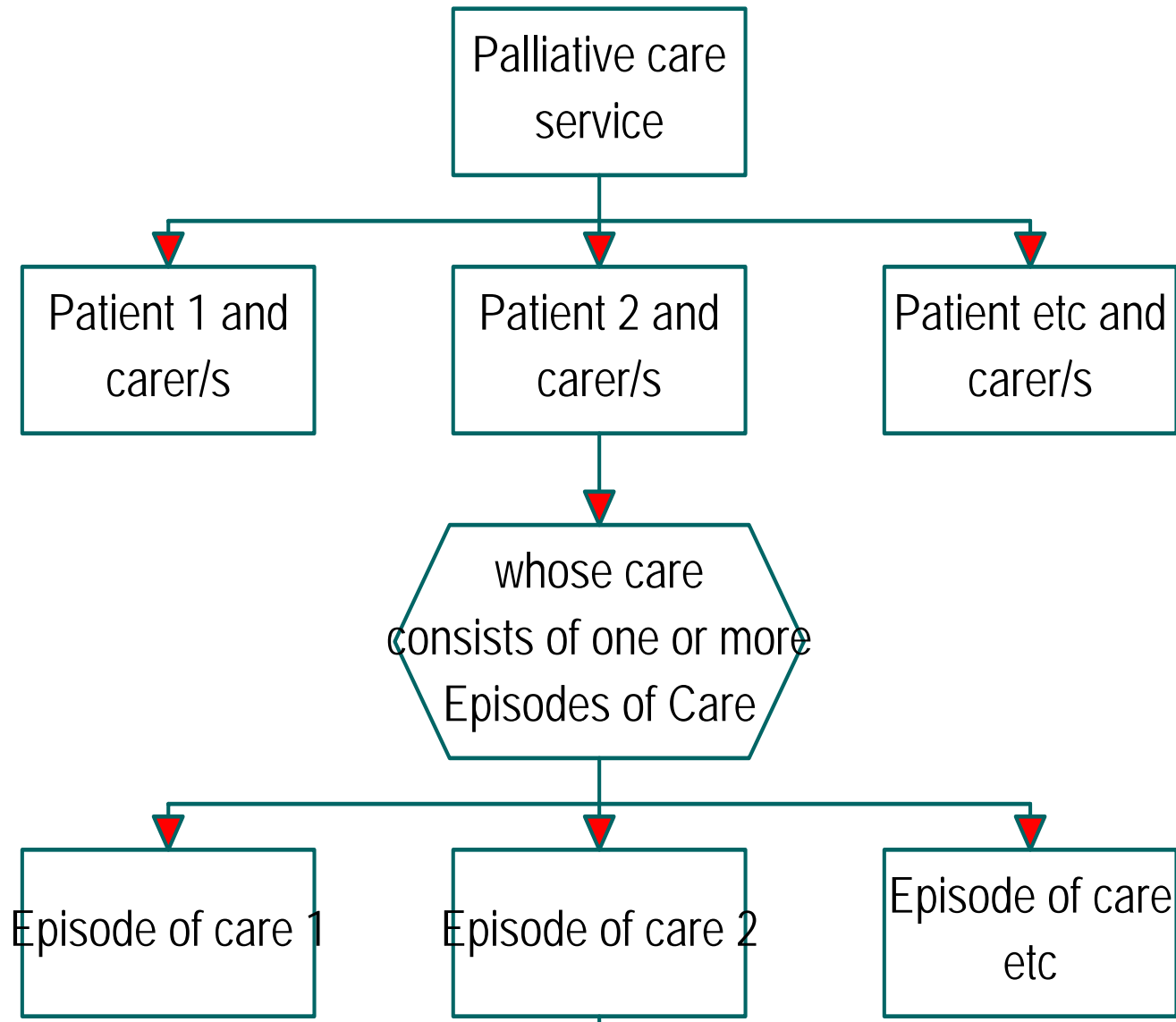
Data to be collected by PCOC

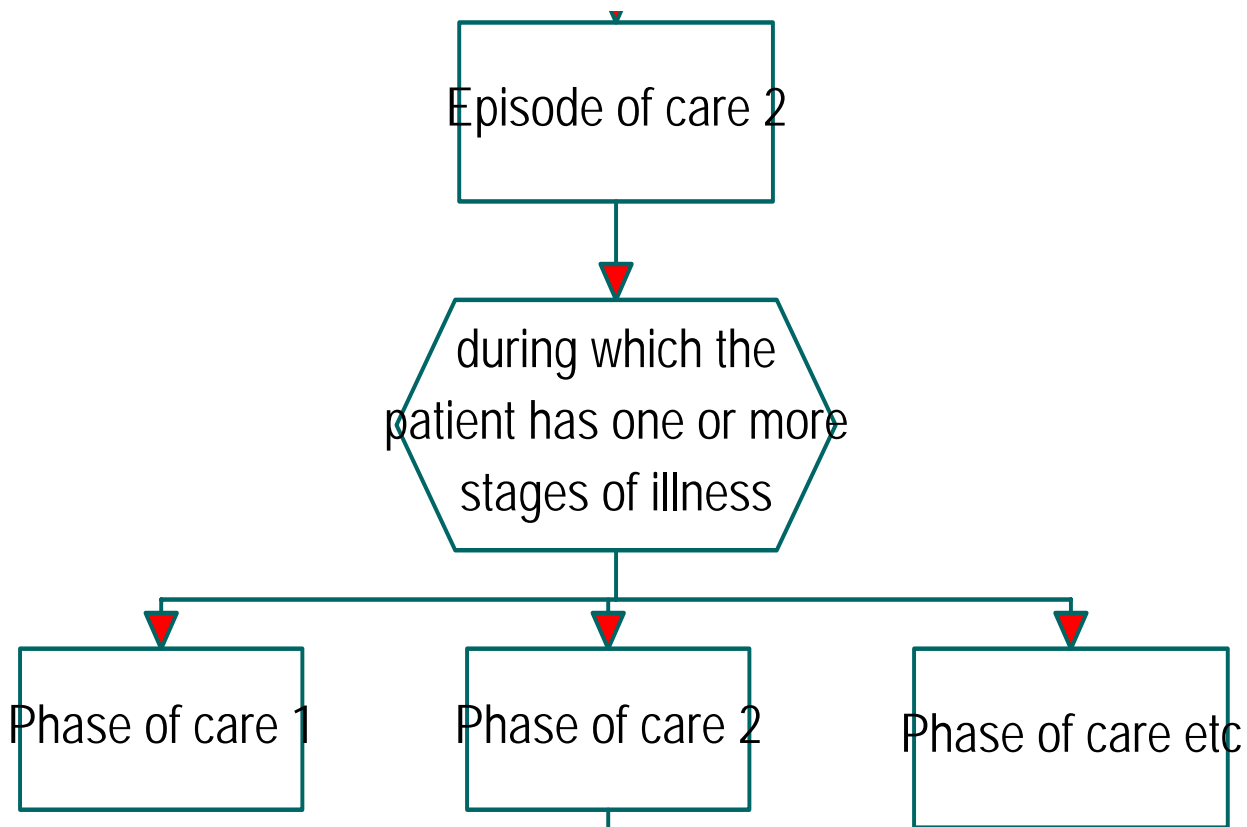
- Level 1 Patient - Demographic
- Level 2 Episode
- Level 3 Phase – Clinical (the level at which outcomes are measured)



The program logic for PCOC data

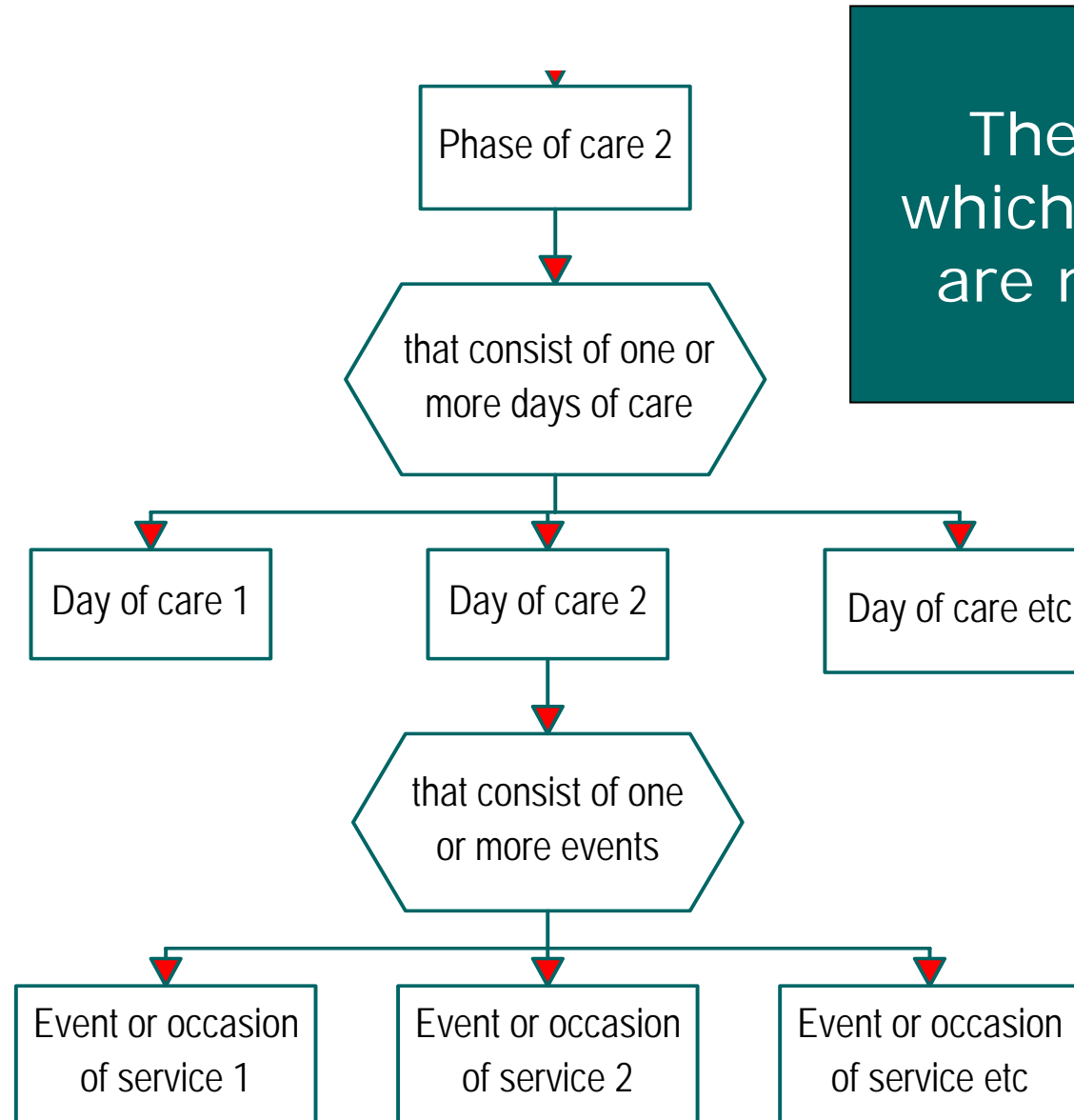
Information to be collected at different levels





EPIISODE TYPES
Community
Inpatient

PHASE TYPES
1 - Stable
2 - Unstable
3 - Deteriorating
4 - Terminal
5 - Bereaved



The level at which outcomes are measured



Data Collection- Level 1

- Patient:
 - Person/client identifier
 - Date of Birth
 - Sex
 - Site Identifier
 - Postcode
 - Indigenous Status
 - Main language spoken at home
 - Country of birth



Data Collection- Level 2

- Episode - Inpatient or Community
 - Referral date
 - Referral Source
 - Mode of Episode start (how)
 - Date of 1st assessment (phone/visit contact)
 - Episode start date (1st episode start date)
 - Proposed model of care at start and end
 - Location/setting
 - Consultation
 - Diagnosis malignant or non malignant
 - Accommodation at start and end
 - Level of support at start and end
 - Separation status
 - Place of death



Level 3 clinical / phase level

- based on assessment tools that give us evidence of the of the type of clinical care needs within the episode
- Date phase began and end
- Reason for phase end



Data collection- level 3 clinical / phase level

These tools include:

- Phase (AN-SNAP)
- RUG (Resource Utilisation Groups)
- Karnofsky Performance Measure
- Problem Severity Score
- Symptom Assessment Scale



Data collection- level 3 clinical / phase level

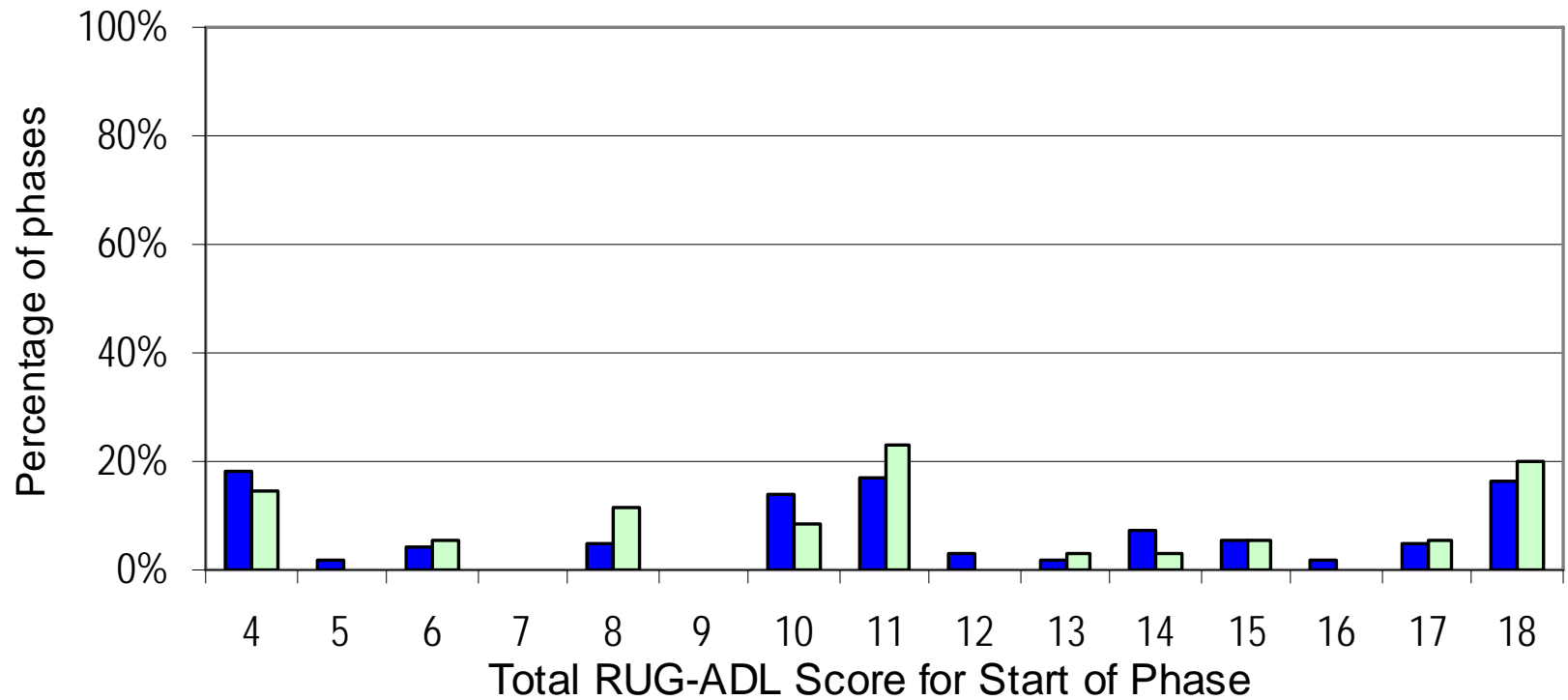
What this level of data collection tells us:

- Functioning, performance and prognosis (RUG, Karnofsky)
- Reason for Admission (phase)
- Symptoms and their severity (PSS, SAS)

Example of graph in report

Deteriorating Phase

■ All services □ Anywhere PCS





Potential Outcomes

- Demonstrate both 'service' and 'patient/carer' level outcomes across settings
- Allow services to measure continuous improvement in the quality and effectiveness of their service
- Provide opportunities for research and evaluation
- Provide benchmarking opportunities with other "like" services eg round table workshops

