South Australian snapshot
Patient Outcomes in Palliative Care
January to June 2015

The Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration is a voluntary program partnering with 17 palliative care services across South Australia 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 South Australian report is based on information from 12 services meeting requirements for reporting:
- 3 palliative care services provide both inpatient and community care.
- 1 inpatient palliative care service.
- 8 community palliative care services.

Highlights of South Australian services reporting to PCOC
- PCOC palliative care services provided 1,777 episodes of care to 1,315 patients in this period.
- 70% of palliative care episodes occurred in the home or RACF (community setting).
- Pain management was the most improved patient outcome for inpatient patients.
- Three benchmarks was met in the inpatient setting (one for timely hospital admission; one for responsiveness to urgent needs; one for pain management)
- Patient outcomes for psychological or spiritual problems were above the national average.
- Areas for improvement include severity of other symptoms, family and carers, distress from nausea, breathing problems and bowel problems as patient outcomes were below the national average.
- For participating services, the average length of stay for a patient in hospital was 11.6 days (national average 10.9 days).
- Average length of time that care was provided for a patient in the community was 42.5 days (national average 38.3 days).
- 565 (43%) of patients from participating services died during this 6-month period, of these: 55% died in hospital; 42% died in the community.
- 85% of patients had a malignant diagnosis and 15% of patients had a non-malignant diagnosis.

Please contact PCOC if you require additional or customised information.

PCOC is a national palliative care project funded by the Australian Government Department of Health

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