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

The Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration is a voluntary program partnering with 11 palliative care services across Western 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 Western Australian report is based on information from 10 services meeting requirements for reporting:

- 7 are inpatient palliative care services.
- 2 are community palliative care services.
- 1 is a palliative care service that provides both inpatient and community care.

Highlights of Western Australian services reporting to PCOC

- PCOC palliative care services provided 3,667 episodes of care to 3,014 patients in this period.
- 66% 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.
- Three benchmarks were met in both the inpatient and community settings (one for timely hospital admission; one for responsiveness to urgent needs, 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 10.4 days (national average 10.9 days).
- Average length of time that care was provided for a patient in the community was 37.4 days (national average 38.3 days).
- 1,392 (46%) of patients from participating services died during this 6-month period, of these: 45% died in hospital; 55% died in the community.
- 75% of patients had a malignant diagnosis and 24% of patients had a non-malignant diagnosis.

Please contact PCOC if you require additional or customised information.