Patient outcomes in palliative care - a national perspective of malignant and non-malignant diseases

Kathy Eagar
University of Wollongong, keagar@uow.edu.au

Patsy Yates
Queensland University of Technology

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Abstract
The Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC) aims to improve patient outcomes through: routine clinical outcome measurement, periodic surveys and benchmarking.

Keywords
malignant, patient, non, diseases, national, perspective, care, palliative, outcomes

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Patient outcomes in palliative care – a national perspective on malignant and non-malignant diseases

Professor Patsy Yates

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The Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC) aims to improve patient outcomes through:

- routine clinical outcome measurement
- periodic surveys and
- benchmarking.
Trends in volume of PCOC services and activity
Levels of analysis

- Patients
  - who have one or more
- Episodes of care (inpatient, community, consult)
  - Consisting of one or more
- Phases
  - Stable
  - Unstable
  - Deteriorating
  - Terminal
  - Bereaved
The analysis being presented today

- July 2013 – June 2014
- 26,382 patients
- includes patients who received care as:
  - inpatients
    - hospital and hospice
  - in the community
    - patient’s home including residential aged care facility
Mantel-Haenszel Chi-squared tests used to investigate differences in age and function (Australia-modified Karnofsky Performance status) profiles of the malignant and non-malignant cohorts.

Logistic Generalised Estimating Equation (GEE) models used to compare symptom profiles
Overall patient profile

Female - 46%

Indigenous - 1%

Born in Australia 64%
Two cohorts

- ‘Malignant’ category consists of all patients with a primary diagnosis of cancer (79%).

- ‘Non-malignant’ category consists of all other patients (21%).
Two cohorts – top 3 diagnoses

Malignant
1. Respiratory
2. Colorectal
3. Other gastrointestinal tract

Non-malignant
1. Cardiovascular disease
2. Respiratory failure
3. End stage kidney disease
Age profile - % of each cohort

- <55: Malignant 10%, Non-malignant 5%
- 55-64: Malignant 15%, Non-malignant 10%
- 65-74: Malignant 20%, Non-malignant 15%
- 75-84: Malignant 25%, Non-malignant 20%
- 85+: Malignant 30%, Non-malignant 35%
Profile by setting

- **Inpatient episodes**
  - 80.4% malignant
  - 19.6% non-malignant

- **Community episodes**
  - 82.5% malignant
  - 17.5% non-malignant
Demographic profile

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<th>% of cohort</th>
<th>VIC</th>
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<th>TAS &amp; ACT</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>QLD</th>
<th>NSW</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Malignant</td>
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<td>Non-malignant</td>
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Diagnosis profile by service

Services (ordered from highest to lowest malignant %)

% of patients

Non-malignant  Malignant
Phase profile by diagnosis

- **Stable**: Malignant (30%) and Non-malignant (25%)
- **Unstable**: Malignant (15%) and Non-malignant (10%)
- **Deteriorating**: Malignant (35%) and Non-malignant (30%)
- **Terminal**: Malignant (20%) and Non-malignant (20%)
Average length of phase - inpatient

- Stable: Malignant 7, Non-malignant 9
- Unstable: Malignant 1, Non-malignant 18
- Deteriorating: Malignant 5, Non-malignant 3
- Terminal: Malignant 2, Non-malignant 10
Average phase length – community (lapsed days)

- Stable: Malignant 27 days, Non-malignant 2 days
- Unstable: Malignant 7 days, Non-malignant 1 day
- Deteriorating: Malignant 13 days, Non-malignant 3 days
- Terminal: Malignant 1 day, Non-malignant 1 day
Performance status (Karnofsky)
(100 is normal, 10 is comatose)

% of cohort

Malignant
Non-malignant
Moderate severe symptoms/problems

% of cohort

Fatigue
Pain
Appetite
Psych/spirit
Bowels
Sleeping
Nausea
Family/carer
Breathing

Malignant
Non-malignant
Conclusions

The non-malignant cohort represents 21.2% of all patients

- % is slowly increasing each year, up from 18.8% in 2008

Compared to patients with malignant conditions, the non-malignant cohort:

- Older (41% over 84 years compared to 17%)
- Poorer function
- Different symptom profile
- Referred later (shorter episodes, higher % in terminal phase, including at referral)
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