

# Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care: PI 02- Average length of palliative care inpatient stay, 2021

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Indicator type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Short name:</b>	PI 02-Average length of palliative care inpatient stay, 2021
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	742659
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Qualified 21/10/2021</li></ul>
<b>Description:</b>	The average (mean) length of stay of overnight separations of palliative care patients in hospital, measured in days.
<b>Rationale:</b>	The <a href="#">National Palliative Care Strategy</a> highlights the importance of people affected by life-limiting illnesses receiving care that matches their needs and preferences (DoH 2019). In Australia, it is common for people to receive palliative and end-of-life care in hospital settings, and length of stay tends to be 3-4 times longer for palliative care than for other hospitalisations (AIHW, 2021). Given the complex nature of palliative care and symptoms treated during palliative care, length of inpatient stay needs to be long enough to provide care and support to patients and their families.
<b>Indicator set:</b>	<a href="#">Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Key Performance Indicators 2021</a> <a href="#">Health</a> , Qualified 21/10/2021

## Collection and usage attributes

**Computation description:** Coverage/Scope:

State/territory hospitals in scope for reporting defined by the [Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19](#).

All hospitals reporting to the [Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19](#) are in scope for this indicator, including all public and private acute and psychiatric hospitals, free standing day hospital facilities, alcohol and drug treatment centres and hospitals specialising in dental, ophthalmic aids and other specialised acute medical or surgical care. Hospitals operated by the Australian Defence Force, correctional authorities and in Australia's off-shore territories may also be included.

**Methodology:**

- The average length of stay is based on '[Episode of admitted patient care](#)'. This records information about the patient and the care they received in hospital, including 'Date of admission' and 'Date of separation/discharge'.
- [Length of stay](#) is calculated by subtracting the date the patient is admitted from the date of separation and deducting any days the patient was on leave.
- This average length of stay indicator relates only to patients with an overnight stay. Same-day episodes of care, in which the patient is admitted and discharged on the same day, are excluded.

**Computation:**

Numerator ÷ Denominator

**Numerator:**

Number of overnight care days for palliative care patients admitted with a 'palliative care' Care Type for hospitals in scope within the reference period

**Numerator data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Episode of admitted patient care—separation date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Episode of admitted patient care—number of leave days, total N\[NN\]](#)

**Data Source**

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Record—identifier, X\[X\(79\)\]](#)

**Data Source**

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Episode of admitted patient care—admission date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Hospital service—care type, code N\[N\]](#)

**Data Source**

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Care Type:

3 = Palliative Care

**Denominator:**

Number of separations with a Care Type of 'palliative care' from hospitals occurring within the reference period

**Denominator data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Record—identifier, X\[X\(79\)\]](#)

**Data Source**

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Hospital service—care type, code N\[N\]](#)

**Data Source**

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Care Type:

3 = Palliative Care

**Disaggregation:**

Disaggregation is by:

- Year (2014-15 – 2018-19)
- State and territory
- Sector (public/private)
- Year by state and territory by sector

**Disaggregation data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Establishment—sector, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Establishment—Australian state/territory identifier, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Comments:**

Reference period for 2021 reporting: 2018-19.

Private sector data is not available for all states and territories.

## Representational attributes

**Representation class:** Mean (average)  
**Data type:** Time period  
**Unit of measure:** Time (e.g. days, hours)  
**Format:** N[NN].N

## Indicator conceptual framework

**Framework and dimensions:** [6. Efficiency & Sustainability](#)

## Data source attributes

**Data sources:** **Data Source**  
[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)  
**Frequency**  
Annual  
**Data custodian**  
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare on behalf of the Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Data Development Working Group

**Reference documents:** AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2021. Palliative Care Services in Australia. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 20 July 2021, <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/palliative-care-services/palliative-care-services-in-australia/contents/summary>

DoH (Department of Health) 2019. National Palliative Care Strategy 2018. Canberra: DoH. Viewed 20 July 2021, <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/the-national-palliative-care-strategy-2018>.