# PCOC Version 4: Strengthening Measurement in Palliative Care to advance Equity and Access

Preferred theme : Clinical & Systems Innovations in Palliative Care

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1. Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration

KEYWORDS

Equity
Outcome measurement
Palliative care

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (100 words maximum)

PCOC Version 4 (V4) aims to strengthen outcome measurement in palliative care by expanding data collection to better represent underserved populations. These include individuals experiencing delirium, those living in correctional facilities or group homes, people receiving care via telehealth, and those without a carer. Early implementation, led by New South Wales services, indicates strong sector support and feasibility across diverse care settings. V4 enables population-level analyses and supports more equitable data-driven improvements in palliative care delivery and outcomes.

INTRODUCTION

PCOC Version 4 (V4) aims to strengthen outcome measurement in palliative care by expanding data collection to better represent underserved populations. These include individuals experiencing delirium, those living in correctional facilities or group homes, people receiving care via telehealth, and those without a carer. By continuing to monitor access to palliative care services, PCOC enables population-level gap analyses and fosters a deeper understanding of outcomes for these groups, supporting more equitable data-driven improvements in care delivery and outcomes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Includes delirium screening, carer status, and care delivery mode.
- Supports equitable, data-driven service improvement.
- NSW leading early implementation across Australia.
- Reflections and key learnings from early implementation will be shared.

METHODOLOGY/ PROCESS

Key enhancements include:

- Integration of delirium measures (clinician-assessed and patient-reported)
- Capture of carer availability
- Documentation of mode of assessment (in-person, videoconference, telephone)
- Expanded accommodation categories including correctional facilities and group homes

These additions enable more comprehensive and inclusive outcome measurement.

RESULTS/ OUTCOMES

PCOC V4 has been implemented since early 2026, with New South Wales at the forefront of national rollout. Initial sector feedback indicates strong support for its inclusive design, adaptability across diverse care settings, and focus on addressing data gaps.

## CONCLUSION

PCOC Version 4 represents a pivotal step towards equitable measurement in Australian palliative care, enabling a more complete understanding of care delivery and outcomes for underserved communities. Early leadership from New South Wales demonstrates feasibility of implementation and provides a foundation for national scale-up.