Outcome measurement and benchmarking update 2015: ePPOC: electronic Persistent Pain Outcomes Collaborative

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The ePPOC team at Australian Health Services Research Institute (University of Wollongong) has delivered a second six monthly report covering the period July-December 2014. Further information about ePPOC can be obtained from the website at http://ahsri.uow.edu/eppoc/index.html, or via email eppoc@uow.edu.au or phone (02) 4221 4411.

The ePPOC dataset incorporates: Brief Pain Inventory (BPI), Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale (DASS), Pain Self-Efficacy Questionnaire (PSEQ) and Pain Catastrophising Scale (PCS). The dataset also includes demographic and background health details and information about waiting time and pain services provided.

The median wait time from referral to first contact (62 days) was lower than that reported by Hogg and colleagues for publicly funded multidisciplinary services in 2012 (150 days). There was variation in the type (individual v group) and intensity of service provided at different sites. Many sites utilised pre-assessment groups which contributed the reduction in waiting time. There was significant variation in the characteristics of the entry cohort presenting at the different sites in terms of co-morbidity, indigenous status and the need for an interpreter. Follow up data showed a trend to improvement in standard clinical outcome measures along with reduction in opioid use. However the low data capture at follow up prevented meaningful analysis.

Key next steps involve improving systems of data capture at follow up and the development of clinical benchmarks.

References