

2 June 2021

Mr James Downie
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority

Email: communications.ihpa@ihpa.gov.au

Dear James

**RE: SUBMISSION FOR THE INDEPENDENT HOSPITAL PRICING AUTHORITY (IHPA)
IN RELATION TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE ADMITTED CARE CLASSIFICATIONS**

Palliative Care Nurses Australia (PCNA) is a member organisation for Australian nurses who are passionate about excellence in palliative care. We provide a unified voice for nurses who deliver, or have an enduring interest in, palliative care policy, practice, research and education. Our goal is to support our members to provide high quality, evidence-based palliative care services for patients at the end of life, and their families.

We are keen to provide the following comments for consideration:

1. People with palliative care needs make up a significant proportion of those receiving admitted care across Australian hospitals (approximately 1/3rd of admitted people);
2. Enabling appropriate coding for all of these patients (whether they are seen by specialist palliative care or not) is important and will enable more accurate reporting of incidence and quality of care provision into the future;
3. Consideration of care provided for someone with palliative care needs who is on a terminal admission as opposed to a non-terminal admission (not dying but has palliative care needs) would be helpful for 2 reasons:
 - I. Ensuring optimal care of the imminently dying person and their family, including bereavement care; and
 - II. Identifying the large population of inpatients with palliative care needs (in their last year or so of life) who would benefit from a focus on coordinated care that enables and supports them to live as well as possible, in the context of their advancing illness

We write this submission to highlight the large and important role hospitals play in enabling optimal palliative care for patients who require this, and their families / carers. Ensuring visibility of this population will be an important step forward in enabling system-wide change and improvement.

With thanks for the opportunity to contribute within this consultation process.

Yours sincerely



Janeane Harlum
President, Palliative Care Nurses Australia Inc.