**Presentation title**

General Practice at the end of life for Victorian primary care cancer patients.

**Explain why your paper is relevant, important and of interest to GP22 participants**

It describes GP care provision at the end-of-life using a large Australian clinical dataset

**Take home messages**

* GPs were involved in the end-of-life care of 95% of cancer patients
* In the last months of life, patients were more likely to visit their GP and more frequently
* Home visits and anticipatory prescribing rates are low comparatively

**Background**

Primary care plays a key role in end-of-life care, yet the extent of this remains largely unknown due to a lack of detailed clinical data.

**Aim / Hypothesis**

To describe the care provided by Australian General Practitioners (GP’s) at the end of life for cancer patients.

**Method**

Retrospective cohort study using linked routine primary care (NPS Medicinewise) and death certificate data. Patients were included who died from cancer between 2007 – 2017.

**Results**

7,025 cancer patients were included, mean age 74.8 yrs. 95% of patients visited their GP in the last 6 months of life, with mean 14.2 episodes of care. The proportion of patients visiting their GP increased closer to death: 69% in the third, 72% in the second, and 74% in the last month of life. This care intensified, with a mean of 3.3 episodes in the final month compared with 2.1 in the third last month (p>0.001).

24% of patients received home visits, 44% prescribed opioids and 20% prescribed anticipatory medications by their GP. Small proportions of patients had potentially inappropriate interventions, such as imaging in the last month (6%) or pathology in the last two weeks (6%).

**Discussion**

The majority of cancer patients engage their GP for end-of-life care. There is room for improvement, with a proportion of having little or no engagement, and low rates of home visits and anticipatory medication prescribing.

**Conclusion**

GP’s play a central role in end-of-life care provision for cancer patients, which intensifies in the last months of life.