

# Worsening Pain in Long-term Care

Year to Date  
Performance

**12.7%**

Island Health  
Target

**Less than  
10.3%**

Performance  
Assessment



**Red**

Performance is significantly outside acceptable range; take action and monitor progress.

## What do we measure and why?

This indicator reports the percentage of long-term care residents whose pain worsened since their previous assessment.

This indicator is a rolling average of the previous 12 months.

Worsening pain can be related to a number of issues, including medication complications and improper management of medication. Careful monitoring of pain is required for appropriate treatment. Worsening pain raises concerns about the resident's health status and the quality of care.

Worsening Pain in Long-term Care is one of the nine key long-term care indicators that the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) monitors, and is a key indicator monitored by the Office of the Seniors Advocate.

## What is the target?

Island Health has set a target of less than 10.3%. This target is based on the 2016/2017 Canadian average reported by CIHI.

## How are we doing?

As of September 2019, Island Health was not meeting the target.

## What actions are we taking?

Every long-term care facility is required to have a quality improvement plan in place for at least one of the five long-term care quality indicators on the Island Health Performance Dashboard (which include worsening pain), and report on that plan quarterly.

Networking and educational opportunities have been created for facilities, including monthly teleconferences on specific indicators. Island Health facilities have weekly 'Plan of Care' meetings and education sessions as needed. Long-term care staff receive education about quality improvement methods.

To support ongoing operations as well as quality improvement work, quarterly performance reports are shared with facilities and have led to improvement of indicator results at some sites. Reports have been developed to identify which individuals most significantly influence the quality indicators and require additional care.