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Conference Abstract

Initiatives to integrate primary health care services

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Abstract:

Introduction: Health service users want and need services that meet their needs, are connected and easy to navigate. Better integration and coordination of primary health care is a challenge in Australia and worldwide. This study aimed to identify initiatives/programs that improve integrated care for patients, particularly the elderly and those with chronic illness.

Methods: A literature review was undertaken using a range of electronic databases, websites and the grey literature. A snowballing technique was used to identify additional material.

Results: A variety of initiatives have been implemented in primary health care settings to facilitate integration, both vertically and horizontally, with a focus on the needs of the local community. While many have not been evaluated, there are several promising initiatives that target multiple points along the patient's care pathway.

Discussion: Although several common elements were used in successful initiatives, one size does not fit all and the local context and specific needs of the local community are important factors to consider.

Keywords

australia, integrated care, health services, primary health care

Presentation available at <http://www.integratedcarefoundation.org/content/22-care-co-ordination-primary-and-community-care-level>