Facilitating Organisational Integration: Models, Mechanisms and Challenges

Petra Bywood, Lynsey Brown & Jodie Oliver-Baxter
Primary Health Care Research & Information Service, Flinders University, Adelaide AUSTRALIA

Background
• International focus on integrating health care
• Policy shift away from acute sector to focus on primary health care
• Rise of primary health care organisations
• Establishing links between health service providers
• Meso level organisations facilitating integration

Methods
• Rapid literature review
• Limited time frame (8 weeks)
• Search through various information sources:
  - Electronic bibliographic databases (e.g., PubMed)
  - Grey literature
  - Government/organisation/international websites

Purpose
This review aimed to identify successful models and mechanisms which enable high quality, integrated care; and to identify some of the persistent challenges to integration.

Debate Statement
Whose responsibility is it to establish and maintain effective inter-organisational relationships?

Challenges in the integrated care puzzle
• Poor communication
• Siloed structures
• Lack of resources
• Misaligned funding
• Limited use of information technology

Mechanisms for successful integration

Australian Models
• Medicare Locals
• Primary Care Partnerships
• Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services
• Primary Care Amplification Model (Inala Clinic, Queensland)
• Brisbane South Comprehensive Primary Care Network
• GP Super Clinics

So what next?
• Evaluations
• Sustainability of partnerships
• Accountability of governments
• Practitioner/patient engagement
• Time and resources

Contact Us:
petra.bywood@flinders.edu.au
www.phcris.org.au

Key stakeholders involved in integrated care