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Conference Abstract

Bringing order out of chaos: Development of a taxonomy of integrated care

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Abstract

Background: Integrated care is promoted in many high income countries as a means to address staff shortages, complex health needs and the fragmentation of care. Interpretation and comparison of integrated care approaches have been compromised by the lack of a common taxonomy and understanding of the concepts involved. The objective of this study was to develop a taxonomy of determinants based on a consensus building process.

Methods: An initial taxonomy was developed based on literature review and a qualitative synthesis process. The relevance and categorisation of the determinants was investigated using three modified Delphi studies. National and international experts in the field of integrated care were selected to participate in these three Delphi studies. Based on the results of the Delphi studies a final draft version of taxonomy was constructed.

Results: This study resulted in a taxonomy of 41 determinants describing eight integration dimension. An explicit distinction is being made between the focus (person vs. population), level (clinical, professional, organisational and system) and enablers (functional vs. normative) domains of integrated care.

Conclusions: This study established a normative consensus around a common terminology and typology of integrated care. Developers, providers and purchasers now have guidance for appraising integrated care in a comprehensive way. Further steps for developing a measurement instrument are being planned.

Keywords

integrated care; primary care; care coordinated care; taxonomy; Delphi technique; evaluation framework

PowerPoint presentation

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