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Conference Abstract

CORTEXS: A multidisciplinary and multi-method research project on integrated care

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Abstract

Integrated care is seen as an important new method towards more demand-driven and cost-conscious health systems. In November 2013, a 4-year, multidisciplinary and multi-method research project on integrated care in Flanders (Belgium) was launched: CORTEXS – Integrating Care. The €3 million project focuses on long term care. CORTEXS strives to combine high quality innovative basic research with a strategic utilization of the research results. The research agenda covers three domains: To develop concepts of integrated care that meet the requirements of availability, quality, feasibility, patient empowerment and job quality; To optimize the work processes and design of care organizations in terms of care quality, job quality, and productivity; To identify the conditions that foster (or impede) effective organizational coordination, normative integration and implementation of high quality care concepts. Especially the innovative

combination of expertise on organization sciences, social innovation and (integrated) care is expected to lead to substantial knowledge development.

The project encompasses 7 workpackages:

- WP1 Conceptualization and operationalization of integrated care
- WP2 CORTEXSLAB: Performance of integrated care under controlled circumstances
- WP3 New processes in Integrated Care
- WP4 Governance in networked settings
- WP5 Normative and systemic integration
- WP6 Evaluation of the performance of Integrated Care
- WP7 Policy advice

The various tasks in the different workpackages are part of an overall empirical research design, which consists of six iterative steps:

1. In WP1, the development of the taxonomy identifies the concepts and the types of chronic care.
2. WP 3, 4, 5 and 6 each start with a literature review on theories, previous research results and implementation reviews.
3. WP 3, 4, 5 and 6 involve comparative case studies on patients pathways in networks of organisations.
4. WP 2 involves the creation and management of the CORTEXSLAB, which is used to integrate the findings from WP 3, 4, 5 and 6 in case study and literature review based models for integrated care. In CORTEXSLAB, these models will be discussed and virtually tested.
5. After testing models and simulating possible solutions in the CORTEXSLAB, specific measures will be tested in real life situations (WP3, 4, 5 and 6). By developing pilots or intervention studies, new integrated care processes will be tested in various settings.
6. WP7 connects the separate results from the various work packages into several practical and accessible tools and instruments.

The CORTEXS project aspires to apply the described approach to tackle the complexity of contributing in a scientific sound way to the societal need for innovations in chronic care.

Keywords

integrated care, multidisciplinary, multi-method

Powerpoint presentation:

<http://www.integratedcarefoundation.org/content/new-research-integrated-care-0>
