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Conference Abstract

The NUHS-frontier Family Medicine Clinic: a Singaporean experience on public-private partnership for healthcare

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Abstract

Objectives: Singapore's healthcare landscape comprises public and private sector providers. Care in public sector institutions is heavily subsidised. The public polyclinics, comprising 14% of our primary care doctors, manage 45% of the country's chronic disease load in primary care. This disproportionate distribution resulted in an under-utilisation of our private physician resource and strained the public sector. An innovative public-private partnership model was conceived to establish new Family Medicine Clinics (FMC). This may lead to better optimisation of healthcare resources, and lower overall healthcare costs.

Methodology: The model involves a multi-disciplinary team led by private Family Physicians in a group practice setting. We will discuss the planning considerations to establish the country's first FMC, the value propositions and how it aimed to address some of the gaps in the healthcare delivery system. Challenges and preliminary observations will be shared.

Results: Extensive physician and patient engagement was conducted to promote this new model of care, resulting in increased referrals from the hospital's specialist outpatient clinics. Continuity of care was established through shared medical records and close physician interaction between the hospital and FMC.

Conclusions: Preliminary observations demonstrated a potential for this model to be replicated to strengthen healthcare delivery in Singapore and reduce fragmentation of care.

Keywords:

integrated care, innovation, sustainable, optimisation
