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Conference Abstract

Instruments to assess integrated care: A systematic review

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Abstract

Introduction: Several measurement instruments have been developed to measure the level of integrated health care delivery. However, no standardized, validated instrument has been found to cover all aspects of integrated care. The purpose of this review is to identify instruments on how to measure the level of integration across health care sectors and to assess and evaluate the organizational elements within the identified instruments.

Methods: An extensive, systematic literature review in PubMed, CINAHL, PsycINFO, Cochrane Library, Web of Science for the years 1980-2011. Selected abstracts were independently reviewed by two investigators.

Results: We identified 23 measurement instruments. Of these, almost all included well-defined structural and process aspects and 6 included cultural aspects. A theoretical framework was explicitly stated by 14 studies. Within the identified instruments 8 organizational elements were found. No measurement instrument covered all organizational elements.

Conclusion and discussion: This review did not identify any measurement instrument covering all aspects of integrated care. In addition, a lack of uniform use of the eight organizational elements across the studies was prevalent. It is unclear whether development of a single "all-inclusive" model for assessing integrated care is desirable. We emphasize the continuing need for validated instruments embedded in theoretical contexts.

Keywords

integrated care, systematic literature review, measurement instruments, organizational elements

Powerpoint presentation:

<http://www.integratedcarefoundation.org/content/making-transicion-towards-integrated-care-implementation-sciences>
