

Describing how multidisciplinary care planning works in practice from the allied health perspective : The Camp Hill

Allied Health Roles in a Multidisciplinary Setting Study

CHARMS Study

Aim

To conduct a comprehensive examination of the role and impact of Allied Health professionals in the care of chronic conditions at Camp Hill Healthcare.

Rationale

- ▶ Chronic disease is the primary reason for 36% of GP consultations (1)
- ▶ Multidisciplinary approach is best practice (2)
- ▶ Enhanced Primary Care Program (EPC) for chronic disease management limits allied health visits to 5 per year. This can result in:
 - Patients not being offered best practice treatment (3)
 - Alternative service pathways which may not be cost effective or equitable (4)
- ▶ Medicare rebates do not cover aspects of multidisciplinary care which don't involve patient contact (5)

Objectives

- ▶ Describe the journey of patients with a chronic illness who received services from Allied Health professionals within the multidisciplinary team
- ▶ Describe the role of Allied Health professionals in providing care for patients with chronic illness as part of the multidisciplinary team
- ▶ Identify the policy settings enabling Allied Health professionals to influence patient outcomes
- ▶ Identify the promoters and barriers to care of patients with chronic illness from Allied Health professionals on the multidisciplinary team

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Methods

- ▶ Case studies using a mixed methods approach - Quantitative analysis with Qualitative Description

Purposive sampling of patients 75 years and over who:

- ▶ are cared for by Allied Health Professional(s) from the multidisciplinary team
- ▶ have at least one of the following conditions:
 - > Diabetes Mellitus Type 2
 - > Osteoarthritis
 - > Urinary Incontinence
- ▶ Sample includes a mix of
 - > Gender
 - > Age range
 - > Presence/absence of co-morbidities
 - > Varying funding paths – private insurance, Medicare, DVA, self-funding

Data Collection and Analysis

- ▶ Descriptive analysis of the total population using the Camp Hill Healthcare 75 years and over Health Assessments database – contains 7 years of data
- ▶ Longitudinal analysis of key indicators
- ▶ Semi-structured interviews of patients and their healthcare providers. Analysis using a thematic framework approach
- ▶ Triangulation of data to provide an in-depth description of the patient journey

Benefits to the community

The multidisciplinary approach is acknowledged as best practice for management of chronic disease yet current policy does not encourage true multidisciplinary teamwork. This project aims to provide an understanding of the role of Allied Health in sustainable and existing multidisciplinary primary care centres and inform policy on the provision of multidisciplinary management of chronic disease in the general practice setting.

References

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