

Research Space

Conference poster

The experiences and perceptions of people living with dementia, informal carers and healthcare professionals of integrated care: findings from a qualitative evidence synthesis

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Full-text can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3FlwfTm>



Background

Despite integrated care services being developed in order to improve dementia care provision, little is known about how people living with dementia, their families and healthcare professionals experience integrated care. Therefore, the purpose of this review of the qualitative literature was to explore the experiences and perceptions of integrated dementia care.

Research questions

1. What are the experiences of integrated dementia care from the perspectives of people living with dementia, informal carers and healthcare professionals?
2. What do people living with dementia, informal carers and healthcare professionals perceive to be good quality integrated care?
3. What are the facilitators and barriers to receiving integrated care?

Methods

Searches included: five electronic databases (MEDLINE; PsycINFO; Social Policy and Practice; Social Sciences Citation Index; and CINAHL); handsearching the International Journal of Integrated Care; grey literature was searched for using the Social Care Online database, and reference list searching of relevant reviews and the final Included studies were conducted.



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Findings

Three overarching themes were identified:

1. **Ways of working which facilitate the delivery of integrated dementia care**
 - Subthemes: The importance of interprofessional communication and collaboration; working together in multidisciplinary teams; case managers: a point of contact and facilitating access to services.
2. **Informal carers as equal partners in care provision and decision making**
 - Subthemes: Involving informal carers in decision making for improved care integration; coordinating care to ensure continuity: reducing stress on informal carers and people living with dementia.
3. **Challenges leading to fragmented and disjointed integrated dementia care**
 - Subthemes: Distrust amongst healthcare professionals; challenges in accessing and sharing information; lack of funding and limited resources.

Conclusions

Integrated dementia care can be successful if certain conditions are met. However, due to the world's ageing population and increasing burden on dementia care services, prompt action is needed to further support the development of integrated care.

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