Facilitating Organisational Integration: Models, Mechanisms and Challenges

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Background
- International focus on integrating health care
- Policy shift away from acute sector to focus on primary health care
- Rise of primary health care organisations
- Establishing links between health service providers
- Meso level organisations facilitating integration

Methods
- Rapid literature review
- Limited time frame (8 weeks)
- Search through various information sources:
  - Electronic bibliographic databases (e.g., PubMed)
  - Grey literature
  - Government/organisation/international websites

Purpose
This review aimed to identify successful models and mechanisms which enable high quality, integrated care, and to identify some of the persistent challenges to integration.

Debate Statement
Whose responsibility is it to establish and maintain effective inter-organisational relationships?

Challenges in the integrated care puzzle
- Poor communication
- Siloed structures
- Lack of resources
- Misaligned funding
- Limited use of information technology

Mechanisms for successful integration

Australian Models
- Medicare Locals
- Primary Care Partnerships
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services
- Primary Care Amplification Model (Inala Clinic, Queensland)
- Brisbane South Comprehensive Primary Care Network
- GP Super Clinics

So what next?
- Evaluations
- Sustainability of partnerships
- Accountability of governments
- Practitioner/patient engagement
- Time and resources

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European Forum for Primary Care Conference, Istanbul, September 2013