Conference abstract

Evaluation of a large-scale implementation of disease management programmes in various Dutch regions: first results

A.P. Nieboer, Dr., Institute of health Policy and Management, P.O. Box 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands

M.J.E. te Vaarwerk, Drs., Zonmw, 2509 AE Den Haag, P.O. Box 9245, The Netherlands, Phone: +31 70 349 52 84, E-mail: vaarwerk@zonmw.nl

Correspondence to: A.P. Nieboer, Phone: +31 10 4082804, E-mail: nieboer@bmg.eur.nl

Abstract

Background: Disease management programmes (DMPs) aim to level off the rising trend in chronic diseases, to prevent or postpone complications and co-morbidities and above all to increase the level of self-management and quality of life of chronically-ill patients. Although evidence on the cost-effectiveness of DMPs is partly available, many questions still remain. Benefits of disease management in a range of DMPs on the patient, professional and organisational level are evaluated by capturing the results in a single conceptual framework, employing comparable structure, process, and outcome measures. First results of cardiovascular DMPs are presented.

Methods: To describe the cardiovascular DMPs we used a methodological approach that combines qualitative and quantitative (mixed) research methods, enabling a thorough and comprehensive evaluation of complex cardiovascular programmes.

Results: Our study showed that each cardiovascular DMP consists of a combination of patient-related, professional, and organizational interventions. The exact programme components for each programme vary, however.

Conclusion: Our results showed that disease management level, costs, health care utilization, patient characteristics, health behaviours, self-management abilities, and health of CVD patients all varied widely between the cardiovascular DMPs. These variations are expected to influence outcomes and cost-effectiveness of the cardiovascular DMPs.

Keywords
disease management, chronic care, integrated care, Netherlands