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Poster Abstract

The importance of multidisciplinary teamwork and team climate for relational coordination among teams delivering care to older patients

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Abstract:

Aim: The aim of this study was to identify predictors of relational coordination among professionals delivering care to older patients.

Background: Relational coordination is known to enhance quality of integrated care in hospitals, by influencing the quality of communication and coordination between professionals. The underlying mechanisms, however, remain poorly understood.

Design: This cross-sectional study was part of a larger evaluation study examining the possibility to prevent loss of function in older patients due to hospitalization in the Netherlands.

Methods: This study was performed in spring 2010 among team members delivering care to older hospitalized patients (192 respondents; 44% response rate). Relational coordination was measured by the Relational Coordination survey; team climate by the Team Climate Inventory and questions were asked about participation in multidisciplinary team meetings and disciplines represented in these meetings. To account for the hierarchical structure, a multilevel analysis was performed.

Result: Correlation analysis revealed a positive relationship between being female, being a nurse and relational coordination; medical specialists showed a negative relationship. The number of disciplines represented during multidisciplinary team meetings and team climate were positively related with relational coordination. The multilevel analysis showed a positive relationship between the number of disciplines represented during multidisciplinary team meetings and team climate with relational coordination.

Conclusion: The enhancement of team climate and attendance of diverse professionals during multidisciplinary team meetings are expected to improve relational coordination among professionals delivering care to hospitalized older patients. Furthermore, this study underscores the importance of enhancing relational coordination between medical specialists and other professionals in the delivery of integrated care.

Keywords

older patients, relational coordination, multidisciplinary teamwork, team climate, hospital care
