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Conference Abstract

## Measuring inter-professional integration and influence on integrated care: A social network approach

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### Abstract

**Background:** Chronic care programs in developed countries seek greater integration and communication between health professionals to improve health outcomes. But more empirical evidence is needed to assess the degree of integration and how the information influences those who are involved in these programs.

**Objective:** This paper analyses the way in which health workers interact at the primary and secondary care interface, based on integrated care design in a program of chronic care in New Zealand.

**Methods:** Interactions between general practitioners, practice nurses, medical specialists and specialist nurses were used as explanatory variables in graphical models which take a social network analysis approach.

**Results:** The paper shows the configuration of the network between health professionals in an integrated care context.

**Conclusions:** The study contributes to understand the application of the social network perspective in healthcare context, particularly at the primary and secondary care interface. Social Network Analysis could be a useful tool to measure levels of integration at the integrated care programs. Managers, policy makers and staff could use this approach for the purpose of measure the structure and dynamic of the inter-professional networks

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