

Additional file 2

Characteristics of included studies

Author(s)	Year	Context	Sample size	Study design	Study focus
Amiel and Pincus [24]	2011	Integrated service delivery.	N/A	Descriptive study	A conceptual framework for the delivery psychiatric services.
Antoncica and Prodan [38]	2008	Inter-organisational collaboration.	226 executives.	Cross-sectional study	The relationship between corporate entrepreneurship and organisational performance within inter-organisational relationships.
Axelsson and Bihari Axelsson [39]	2006	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Expert opinion	The development of a conceptual framework for inter-organisational integration in public health.
Bai, Wells and Hillemeier [40]	2009	Inter-organisational collaboration.	75 child welfare agencies.	Prospective cohort study	Relationship between inter-organisational relationships and use of mental health services.
Bainbridge et al. [19]	2010	Integrated care networks.	N/A	Expert opinion	Development of a conceptual framework for the evaluation of integrated palliative care networks.
Balmer et al. [87]	2011	Inter-organisational and inter-professional learning.	N/A	Descriptive study	Exploration of different alliance competencies.
Barceló et al. [83]	2010	Quality improvement collaborative.	10 public health centres.	Case-control study	Using collaborative learning to improve the quality of diabetes care.
Béland and Hollander [25]	2011	Integrated service delivery.	N/A	Review of literature	Models on integrated care delivery for the frail elderly.
Biro, Moreland, and Cowgill [20]	2003	Integrated care networks.	N/A	Descriptive study	Framework for developing a balanced scorecard to establish benchmarks.
Blackmore, Mecklenburg and Kaplan [26]	2011	Integrated service delivery.	N/A	Descriptive study	Collaborative efforts among providers, payers, and employers.
Squire, Cousins and Brown [62]	2009	Inter-organisational learning.	104 manufacturing firms.	Cross-sectional study	The effect of relational factors on knowledge transfer within cooperation.
Briner et al. [89]	2010	Clinical risk management.	N/A	Descriptive study	Development of a monitoring instrument for clinical risk management.
Castelnuovo [41]	2005	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Expert opinion	The development of a conceptual model for an integrated system of local governments.
Chan, Chong and Zhou [42]	2012	Inter-organisational collaboration.	505 employees of Malaysia firms.	Cross-sectional study	The diffusion of electronic collaboration in supply chain management.
Choi and Ko [63]	2012	Inter-organisational learning.	119 employees of Korean firms.	Cross-sectional study	The relationship between Inter-organisational learning and electronic collaboration.
Clarke and Fuller [43]	2010	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	The development of collaborative strategic management model.

Cohen et al. [27]	2011	Integrated service delivery.	N/A	Descriptive study	The development of an integrated complex care model.
D'Amour et al. [86]	2008	Inter-professional and inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	The development of a model for inter-professional and inter-organisational collaboration.
DeMuro [16]	2011	Accountable Care Organisations	N/A	Expert opinion	Strategies for governing an accountable care organisation.
Dunlop and Holosko [44]	2005	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	The role and contribution of relational processes in inter-organisational partnerships.
Epping-Jordan et al. [90]	2004	Chronic Care Model.	N/A	Expert opinion	The development of framework which emphasizes community and policy aspects of improving care.
Evans and Alleyne [79]	2009	Inter-professional learning.	N/A	Expert opinion	The development of a knowledge transfer process model.
Evans and Baker [28]	2012	Integrated service delivery.	N/A	Expert opinion	The development of a framework to characterize the behaviours of actors within health systems.
Fann, Ell and Sharpe [29]	2012	Integrated service delivery.	N/A	Expert opinion	Identification of key components of integrated psychosocial services.
Faulkner and Laschinger [91]	2008	Structural and psychological empowerment of nurses.	282 nurses.	Cross-sectional study	The relationship between structural and psychological empowerment and perceived respect of nurses.
Fleury [21]	2006	Integrated care networks.	N/A	Expert opinion	The development of a typology of Integrated care networks.
Fryers, Young and Rowland [70]	2012	Inter-professional collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	The development of an evaluation framework for team coordination.
Gagliardi, Dobrowb and Wright [71]	2011	Inter-professional collaboration.	N/A	Review of literature	Exploration of inter-professional collaboration models.
Garriga [45]	2009	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	A framework to conceptualize structural and relational factors of stakeholder cooperation.
Gowen, Henagan and McFadden [92]	2009	Transformational leadership, knowledge management and quality management.	370 hospitals in the USA.	Cross-sectional study	Relation between transformational leadership, knowledge management and quality management on organisational performance.
Handfield et al. [46]	2009	Inter-organisational collaboration.	151 manufacturing and service firms in the UK.	Cross-sectional study	Relation between organisational entrepreneurship and supply management.
Hastie and Fahy [72]	2011	Inter-professional collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	Inter-professional interactions in birthing units.
Hirsch and Meyer [47]	2010	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Expert opinion	A framework to assess the behavioural aspects in an inter-organisational partnership.
Hudson [73]	2007	Inter-professional collaboration.	N/A	Expert opinion	Pessimism and optimism in professional integration.
Huerta, Casebeer and VanderPlaat [48]	2006	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Expert opinion	A framework to conceptualize inter-organisational relationships in health care.
Huotari [64]	2008	Inter-organisational learning.	N/A	Expert opinion	Development of a model for inter-organisational learning in a multi-actor network.
Huxham and Hibbert [65]	2008	Inter-organisational learning.	N/A	Descriptive study	A conceptualization of inter-organisational learning.

Jarvenpaa and Majchrzak [66]	2008	Inter-organisational learning.	104 security professionals in the USA.	Cross-sectional study	Assessment of knowledge-sharing in inter-organisational collaborations.
Knoben and Oerlemans [67]	2012	Inter-organisational learning.	400 South African firms.	Cross-sectional study	The relation between a sets of external actors and Inter-organisational knowledge links.
Kowalska [49]	2007	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	Exploration of the relation between health care financing and integration.
Kümpers et al. [88]	2006	Inter-organisational and inter-professional learning.	N/A	Descriptive study	Conceptualization of knowledge transfer in health care networks.
Leech, van Wyk and Uys [74]	2007	Inter-professional collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	Exploration of the role of community nurses in primary care clinics.
Légaré et al. [75]	2011	Inter-professional collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	Conceptualisation of inter-professional approach of shared discussion making in primary care.
Lough and Klevay [76]	2012	Inter-professional collaboration.	N/A	Expert opinion	The development of inter-professional collaboration model.
McGill and Santoro [50]	2004	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Expert opinion	Exploration of the resource and competitive interdependence between organisations.
Meijboom, Haan and Verheyen [22]	2004	Integrated care networks.	N/A	Expert opinion	Conceptualisation of economic organisation theory in health networks.
Minkman et al. [30]	2009	Integrated service delivery.	31 Dutch integrated care experts.	Review of literature and consensus procedure	Development of a quality management model for integrated care.
Minkman, Ahaus and Huijsman [31]	2009	Integrated service delivery.	31 Dutch integrated care experts.	Expert opinion	A framework for the development process of integrated care services.
Minkman et al. [32]	2011	Integrated service delivery.	84 care networks.	Cross-sectional study	Quality indicators to assess integrated care services.
Minott et al. [51]	2010	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Expert opinion	Exploration of a group employed model.
Morgan et al. [80]	2009	Inter-professional learning.	N/A	Descriptive study	Evaluation of a community-based medical education program.
Ngai, Jin and Liang [52]	2008	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	Conceptualization of inter-organisational Knowledge management.
Ngai, Chau and Chan [53]	2011	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	Exploration of the relationship between supply chain competence and supply chain agility on firm performance.
Nolan et al. [68]	2005	Inter-organisational learning.	N/A	Descriptive study	Evaluation of a framework to spread improvements in a health care setting.
Olckers, Gibbs and Duncan [81]	2007	Inter-professional learning.	N/A	Expert opinion	Conceptualisation of inter-professional learning of health professionals.
Olson, Balmer and Mejicano [54]	2011	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	Conceptualisation of success factors for inter-organisational collaboration in the health sector.
Paier and Scherngell [55]	2011	Inter-organisational collaboration.	191 organisations participating in research projects.	Cross-sectional study	Evaluation of features for Inter-organisational R&D collaborations.

Pettersen and Rokkan [56]	2006	Inter-organisational collaboration.	Companies in the French seafood industry.	Cross-sectional study	Conceptualization of buyer tolerance of conflict in international business relationships.
Phillips et al. [93]	2010	Clinical governance in primary care/ Other.	N/A	Review of literature	Exploration of the concept of clinical governance and the relation with quality and safety.
Pinto et al. [84]	2011	Quality improvement collaborative.	20 health organisations in the UK.	Cross-sectional study	The effect of situational factors on a quality improvement program.
Pomietto et al. [85]	2009	Quality improvement collaborative.	N/A	Descriptive study	Evaluation of a quality improvement project.
Reilly et al. [33]	2003	Integrated service delivery.	331 consultants in old age psychiatry in the UK and Ireland.	Cross-sectional study	Relation between integrated structures and services.
Robinson, Anning and Frost [82]	2005	Inter-professional learning.	N/A	Expert opinion	Conceptualization of inter-professional learning in a multi-agency team setting.
Rocha and Miles [57]	2009	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Expert opinion	Conceptualization of a collaborative entrepreneurship model for inter-organisational partnerships.
Sanders [58]	2007	Inter-organisational collaboration.	245 CEOs of manufacturing companies in the USA.	Cross-sectional study	Relationship between e-business technologies, organisational collaboration, and performance.
Schulz and Geithner [69]	2010	Inter-organisational learning.	N/A	Descriptive study	Exploration of the development of inter-organisational learning networks.
Shields et al. [17]	2011	Accountable Care Organisations.	N/A	Descriptive study	Integrating of independent physicians into an accountable care organisation.
Shields [18]	2011	Accountable Care Organisations.	N/A	Expert opinion	Exploration of success factors for an accountable care organisation.
Sicotte, D'Amour and Moreault [77]	2002	Inter-professional collaboration in primary care.	343 programme coordinators within a community health centre.	Cross-sectional study	Exploration of success factors for inter-professional collaboration in community health centres.
Speir et al. [59]	2009	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	Evaluation of a model for regional collaboration in health care.
Stock, Reece and Cesario [78]	2004	Inter-professional collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	Description of an interdisciplinary model for geriatric patients.
Strandberg-Larsen et al. [34]	2010	Integrated service delivery.	976 general practitioners in the US and Denmark.	Cross-sectional study	Exploration of clinicians' perceptions of clinical integration in two different health sectors.
Thompson et al. [94]	2003	Process optimisation in the care chain.	N/A	Descriptive study	Description of the implementation of Toyota production system method in a health system.

Ueoka [35]	2008	Health care Improvement in conflict areas.	N/A	Descriptive study	Description of a health care improvement model in conflict areas.
Vaccaro, Parente and Veloso [60]	2010	Inter-organisational collaboration.	113 senior managers in the Brazilian automobile industry.	Cross-sectional study	The effect of knowledge management tools on the performances of business units in inter-organisational relationships.
Visschedijk et al. [36]	2003	Integrated service delivery.	N/A	Expert opinion	Conceptualization of the integration of leprosy services into the general health services.
Wan and Wang [23]	2003	Integrated care networks.	100 integrated health care networks in the US	Retrospective cohort study	The effect of integration on performance in health care networks.
Wells and Weiner [61]	2007	Inter-organisational collaboration.	N/A	Descriptive study	Exploration of cooperative evolution in community health centres.
Zou et al. [37]	2012	Integrated service delivery.	N/A	Descriptive study	Exploration of factors that influence the integration of health services.

N/A: Not applicable