

Volume 14, 01 October 2014

Publisher: Igitur publishing

URL: <http://www.ijic.org>

Cite this as: Int J Integr Care 2014; Annual Conf Suppl; [URN:NBN:NL:UI:10-1-116167](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:nl:ui-10-1-116167)

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Conference Abstract

## **Integration through engagement: A movement towards older adults' involvement in health care research, planning and decision making**

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### **Abstract**

**Introduction:** The Chronic Care Model (CCM) [1] emphasizes the importance of integrating the community into health care research, planning, and decision-making but does not discuss how best to achieve this. Our focus is on older adults, who are major users of the health care system, and most likely to suffer consequences of a poorly integrated system.

**Aims:** Discuss the rationale, planning, and current implementation of a health care engagement strategy for older adults in Ontario.

**Methods:** We have consulted with over 600 seniors, informal caregivers, formal care providers and community organizations in Southwestern Ontario; and conducted an international realist synthesis [2, 3] combining current knowledge on engagement.

**Results:** Stakeholders desire meaningful opportunities for engagement in health system priority-setting and decision-making. Our literature review identified best practices of engagement of older adults that can be adapted to achieve health system integration aligned with the principles of the CCM.

**Conclusions:** We have developed guidelines and recommendations for the engagement of older patients, their families and caregivers in health care research, planning, and decision-making. We are currently using these in the design of our efforts to support more meaningful engagement of older adults in the health care system.

### **Keywords**

**aging, health and social care integration, engagement, realist synthesis, chronic care model, older adults**

## References

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## Powerpoint presentation:

<http://www.integratedcarefoundation.org/content/thinking-differently-community-engagement-and-integrated-care>

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