Conference Abstract

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

Heather McNeil, BHSc, MA, PhD Student, University of Waterloo, Canada

Ms. Jacobi Elliott, PhD Candidate, University of Waterloo, Canada

Dr. Paul Stolee, Associate Professor, University of Waterloo, Canada

Dr. George Heckman, MD, FRCP, Associate Professor, University of Waterloo, Canada

Dr. Veronique Boscart, PhD, RN, Adjunct Professor, University of Waterloo, Canada

Correspondence to: Heather McNeil, University of Waterloo, Phone: +1 519888456, E-mail: hmcneil@uwaterloo.ca

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

14th International Conference on Integrated Care, Brussels, April 2-4 2014
References


Powerpoint presentation:

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