

## POSTER ABSTRACT

# Integrating Our Knowledge of Integrated Care – A Framework for Knowing, Understanding, Improving and Sharing What We Know

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Jason CH Yap

Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health NUS, Singapore

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**Introduction:** Integrated Care as a domain and a discipline is well established. Many have sought to define and elucidate the essence, boundaries and taxonomy of the care integration proper (one researcher has counted in excess of 175 definitions and concepts) but less attention to date has been paid to what constitutes our knowledge of the field, components which include topics as widely diverse as health systems and policies to models for the delivery of care, to processes for the design and implementation of actual programmes, to social and consumer behaviour, to methods in evaluation and research. This presentation attempts to present a coherent framework for organising knowledge in Integrated Care.

**Method & Results:** Publications in Integrated Care from appropriate academic sources are collated and analysed for their authors' choices of key words associated. These keywords are clustered for thematic collinearity and major focus areas identified are validated by practitioners and experts and by sub-analyses of selective samples. From these focus areas are derive a framework for assembling current knowledge in the domain of Integrated Care.

**Conclusion:** A framework for understanding and integrating what we know in and of Integrated Care will advance the development and maturation of the knowledgebase of an important field. It could also form the basis of a teaching curriculum for beginner courses on Integrated Care.

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**Keywords:** integrated care; taxonomy; curriculum; knowledge Management

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