
CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Using logic models to support integrated care implementation - lessons from implementation in 9 European integrated care regions

1st North American Conference on Integrated Care, Toronto, 4 - 7 October 2021

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Introduction

Implementing integrated care is inherently challenging due to the number of actors to engage, the long-term realization of benefits, and assessing intervention effectiveness. Thus, policymakers often rely on transferring best-practices from existing integrated care systems to inform the design of regional initiatives. However, the implementation challenges of simply transferring best practices from other contexts is increasingly acknowledged. SCIROCCO Exchange is an EU-funded consortium that aims to scale-up integrated care initiatives within respective health system contexts through facilitating knowledge transfers and providing personalized improvement support.

Aims Objectives Theory or Methods

Here we demonstrate how logic models can serve integrated care implementation by identifying gaps in causal links between desired outcomes and planned activities, and as a communication tool for stakeholder engagement. We collaborate with 9 regions across Europe at varying stages of integrated care journey to cocreate logic models. Participating regions utilize a validated self-assessment tool that includes twelve dimensions found to be integral in successfully implementing integrated care to identify goals of improvement with patient involvement. We then work with regional leadership and staff to create a high-level model, then proceed to validate the model with wider stakeholders.

Highlights or Results or Key Findings

- Early engagement with regional actors was key to building the trust required for cocreation of a representative logic model
- While regional leaders were initially unfamiliar with the use and purpose of logic models, adoption and acceptability increased after its demonstrated value in clarifying goals, and thinking through the causal chain of events that link planned/implemented activities and anticipated outcomes
- Regions at earlier stages of their integrated care journey focused more on activities and direct outputs while those at later stages focused more on outcomes. Across participating regions, thoughtful work was required to iteratively define the causal links between activities and outcomes

- The process of logic model development adds value to the process of implementing integrated care systems by challenging stakeholders to think through the causal mechanisms that links activities that are invested and the desired outcomes within the regional context.

Conclusions

One of the reasons that integrated care systems are not scaled up is due to the lack of transparent communication and shared understanding between different actors regarding the causal linkages between invested activities and the desired outcome. Logic models can be a useful tool to close this gap among stakeholders.

Implications for applicability/transferability sustainability and limitations

Logic model is a highly adaptable and sustainable tool to support integrated care system at different stages of implementation. We are limited to our initial experiences engaging regional leadership in this work. The next step will be to validate and further refine the logic model with stakeholders on the ground.