

INTEGRATION, COORDINATION AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES IN PRIMARY CARE: A SYSTEMATIC INVESTIGATION OF THE LITERATURE

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POLICY CONTEXT

Australia's population is ageing and there is an increasing burden of chronic disease putting pressure on the health system. These challenges have raised interest and awareness of primary health care models of care, like the use of integrated, co-ordinated multidisciplinary team approaches. This review looked at the existence and effectiveness of these models in primary health care settings.

KEY FINDINGS

- There is some evidence that Integration, Coordination and Multidisciplinary (ICM) approaches within primary health care can improve patient outcomes
- The effectiveness and implications of system level ICM approaches and changes have yet to be fully determined
- The use of ICM approaches does not necessarily lead to reduced health service use or expenditure
- ICM approaches and interventions tend to be multi-component. The most essential components of interventions have yet to be identified
- Understanding how research findings from other countries (even those with similar health systems or funding mechanisms) can apply to the Australian health system can be difficult

For more details, go to the [three page report](#)

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