Investigating the literature on integration, coordination and multidisciplinary care

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A systematic literature review to explore what is meant by the terms, what models exist, and the effectiveness of integration, co-ordination and multidisciplinary (ICM) approaches in primary health care.

Original proposal dealt with palliative and aged. Also needed to include chronic.
Issues in designing and conducting this review

- Broad, conceptually complex topic
- Literature sources and evidence issues
- Importance of context, generalisability, transferability
- Overlap between health and social care
- Population and subpopulations
- Policy needs

Importance of scoping study
Engaging stakeholders

- Time is your enemy
- Define when and what involvement you want
- Reference Group, consultation workshop, conversations (formal and informal)
- Organisational sources
Systematic review process

- Different methodologies
- Different appraisal tools available
  - EPOC, JBI, Cochrane,
- Project management
- Defining and refining your question(s)
Managing the literature

- Protocol to outline design of review
  - Relative value of different types of studies
  - Inconsistent/non compatible ICM mechanisms between studies
  - Transferability to Australian circumstance
  - Determining the effect of a population against an intervention

- Search strategy development
- Finding grey literature
- Importance of documentation
Dealing with complex issues which are multifaceted and not easily answered definitively

More complex than classic systematic review. Conceptual, analytical, theoretical work required.

Engagement with policy makers requires time and the time frame is very tight.

Volume of material is challenging

There is a need for tools to support integration of evidence from diverse sources.

Importance of context

Writing the final report takes longer than you think. Editing it takes longer than you allowed.
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