Aligning population based approaches to improving health outcomes: improving primary care services and lessons for integrated care

Professor Catherine Darker
Adelaide Assistant Professor in Health Services Research
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Integrated Healthcare in Ireland
– A Critical Analysis and
a Way Forward

An Adelaide Health Policy Paper

Dr Catherine Darker
Adelaide Assistant Professor
in Health Services Research

The Adelaide Health Foundation

Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin
Lest we forget
Interface between clinic and community
## Essential Functions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Health</th>
<th>Primary Healthcare</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population health assessment</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Tx</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Health surveillance</td>
<td>Health promotion and prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Health promotion</td>
<td>Maternal and child care</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Disease and injury prevention</td>
<td>Emergency care</td>
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<td>Health protection</td>
<td>Rehabilitative care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disaster response</td>
<td>Palliative care</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Advocacy</td>
<td>Patient advocacy</td>
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<td>Participation in community health</td>
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<td>Programmes</td>
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*Areas in which public health and primary care are most closely linked – greatest potential for integration?
Substance Misuse
## Skill Characteristics

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<tr>
<td>Epidemiology/health services investigation/research</td>
<td>Investigation &amp; management of clinical problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designing, launching and maintaining public health programmes and interventions</td>
<td>Consultation &amp; communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report and policy writing</td>
<td>Small group leadership skills</td>
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<td>Practice management</td>
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<td>Medical audit</td>
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Health of the individual is inseparable from the health of the larger community
(Formal) Reality
Integration of primary care and public health on a continuum

- policy?
- service?
- research?
- education?
Levers to achieve integration

Stakeholder Agreement (? Facilitated through professional Colleges)

Aim = ↑ importance, value and movement towards integration

Statement of shared principles and goals:

1. Achieving health equity and improving health outcomes
2. Linking or integrating public health & primary care
3. Strengthening research and evaluation, assuring availability of data and supporting health information exchange
4. Assuring a strong public health and primary care workforce
Take Home Messages

• **Integration between PH & PC = logical**
  • Cultural and organisational separation between primary care and public health
  • Underinvestment in both

• **Opportunity = ‘population health’ as uniting force**

• **Grassroots movement**
A question of importance:

*How do we improve population health and reduce health disparities through effective integration and coordination of public health and primary care?*
A true HEALTH system
Thank You

Email: catherine.darker@tcd.ie
Twitter: @catherinedarker