

Conference abstract

Title: Effective information exchange as a basis for successful implementation of integrated care programs – case studies from USA, Germany and Poland.

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Abstract

Introduction: Integrated care programs are cost-saving intervention in healthcare environment. We should become acquainted with indispensable resources prior to implementation of such programs.

Objectives: To assess if computerized information system is one of the essential factors in the implementation process of integrated care programs. To assess the level of implementation of computerization in information systems on the basis of 5 examples in USA, Germany and Poland for two time periods: the beginning of implementation and 5 years after along with classification as “successful” or “unsuccessful” implementation.

Methods: A systematic literature review and additional hand-search of targeted sources.

Results: On the basis of systematic review country-wide computerized information systems that allow data management and effective tracking of utilization and outcomes were identified as one of the essential components of success of integrated care programs [1]. This statement was confirmed as a result of analysis of five examples: positively by Mayo Clinic (USA) and GesundesKinzigal (Germany), and negatively by McAllen (USA), Community Healthcare Centres and Pilot Programme for GP's in Zachodniopomorskie for Poland .

Conclusions: Especially Polish example proved, that without prior implementation of working and proven computerized information system, implementation of any integrated healthcare program would not be successful.

Key words: information exchange, integrated care, USA, Germany, Poland.

[1] Suter E, Oelke ND, Adair CE, Armitage GD, Ten key principles for successful health systems integration, Healthc Q., 2009 Oct;13 Spec No:16-23.