

Collaborative Care Accountability and boundary objects in health care communities

The specific objective of this program is to describe accountability processes and boundary objects in order to identify and explain collaborative care. We propose that successful collaborative care assumes accountability processes and boundary objects that can be used for communicating experiences and knowledge. The understanding of collaborative care is believed to be central for the improvement of quality, accessibility and cost efficiency at the same time. The studies will rely on reviewing the contacts taken by the practitioners when trying to establish any collaborative effort to improve the care provided to the patients. By shadowing the driving forces, one person at each research site, we assume it will be possible to map their search for other people to collaborate with. Having done so, we intend to describe the accountability between the people engaged and its transformation over time. In Sweden and elsewhere, care-chains are introduced to coordinate the care for patients from admissions to discharge. Still, the knowledge of the effects is limited. However, some studies indicate that the basic idea of differentiation request a lot of integration activities. Years of hierarchical control have created administrative territories which makes it difficult to co-operate across the borders.

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