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### Collaboration in general practice: working together to deliver clinical care

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## Collaboration in general practice: working together to deliver clinical care

### Abstract

Abstract of a poster presented at the 2015 PHC Research Conference, 29-31 July, Adelaide, Australia.

### Disciplines

Medicine and Health Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences

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# Collaboration in general practice: Working together to deliver clinical care

## 2015 PHC RESEARCH CONFERENCE: POSTER ABSTRACT

### Author(s)

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### Organisation

[University of Wollongong](#)

### Aims & rationale

The aim is to identify ways that GPs and registered nurses work together to deliver clinical care in this previously under researched area of general practice. Collaboration between health professionals is a key element in delivering cost effective health care, positive patient outcomes and enhanced patient and professional satisfaction. Despite this, workforce constraints may impact the way general practitioners (GPs) and nurses work together. Given the role of general practice in providing primary care, it is important to understand factors which influence collaboration in this somewhat unique healthcare environment.

### Methods

A qualitative study was undertaken as the first phase of a mixed methods Doctoral project. Interviews were performed with GPs and nurses working in general practice in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Medicare Local and South Western Sydney Medicare Local Catchment areas. All interviews were audio recorded, transcribed verbatim and underwent a process of framework analysis.

### Findings

Interviews were conducted until data saturation was achieved. The findings highlighted a range of environmental as well as interpersonal factors which impact on the way in which GPs and nurses work together in general practice. These included communication issues, lack of formal job description and a limited understanding of each other's role and scope of practice.

### Relevance to policy, research and/or practice needs

Knowledge generated from this project will inform policy initiatives and targeted interventions to improve work practices and patient care in general practice. Further research should investigate in more detail the influence of collaboration in general practice on nursing leadership, satisfaction and staff retention.

## Presentation type

Poster

## Session theme

Workforce

## Citation

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