2015

Collaboration in general practice: working together to deliver clinical care

Susan McInnes
*University of Wollongong, smcinnes@uow.edu.au*

Elizabeth J. Halcomb
*University of Wollongong, ehalcomb@uow.edu.au*

Andrew D. Bonney
*University of Wollongong, abonney@uow.edu.au*

Kathleen Peters
*University of Western Sydney, k.peters@uws.edu.au*

**Publication Details**


Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: research-pubs@uow.edu.au
Collaboration in general practice: working together to deliver clinical care

Abstract

Disciplines
Medicine and Health Sciences | Social and Behavioral Sciences

Publication Details

This conference paper is available at Research Online: https://ro.uow.edu.au/smhpapers/3329
Collaboration in general practice: Working together to deliver clinical care

2015 PHC RESEARCH CONFERENCE: POSTER ABSTRACT

Author(s)
Susan McInnes*, Elizabeth Halcomb, Andrew Bonney, Kathleen Peters

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.