

Organisational challenges for multidisciplinary care; the changing realities in Australia

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Whilst the intent of multidisciplinary care is noble the operation often falls short of expectations. The organisation structure that health professionals function within is often design to provide specialised services.

Such structures encourage the development of 'silos' at the expense of cross disciplinary management. Effective implementation of multidisciplinary care requires a restructure of existing organisations to one of generalisation over specialisation that draws on the expertise of specialists but focuses on the total health care needs of the patient.

Examples of how this challenge is being addressed with the Australian context will be presented. The implementation of strategies including changes to scope of practice, emergent roles of case managers and implementation of e-health communication will be discussed.