

INTRODUCTION

- Interprofessional Collaboration (IPC) enables healthcare professionals (HCPs) to deliver coordinated, high-quality care, a core element to the World Health Organisation's Integrated Care for Older People framework (1).
- Role awareness and clarity are key enablers of effective IPC within Specialist community teams integrating care for older adults (ICPOP-CSTs) (2).

AIM

To explore HCPs perceptions of role awareness and clarity within the context of ICPop-CST team working.

METHODS

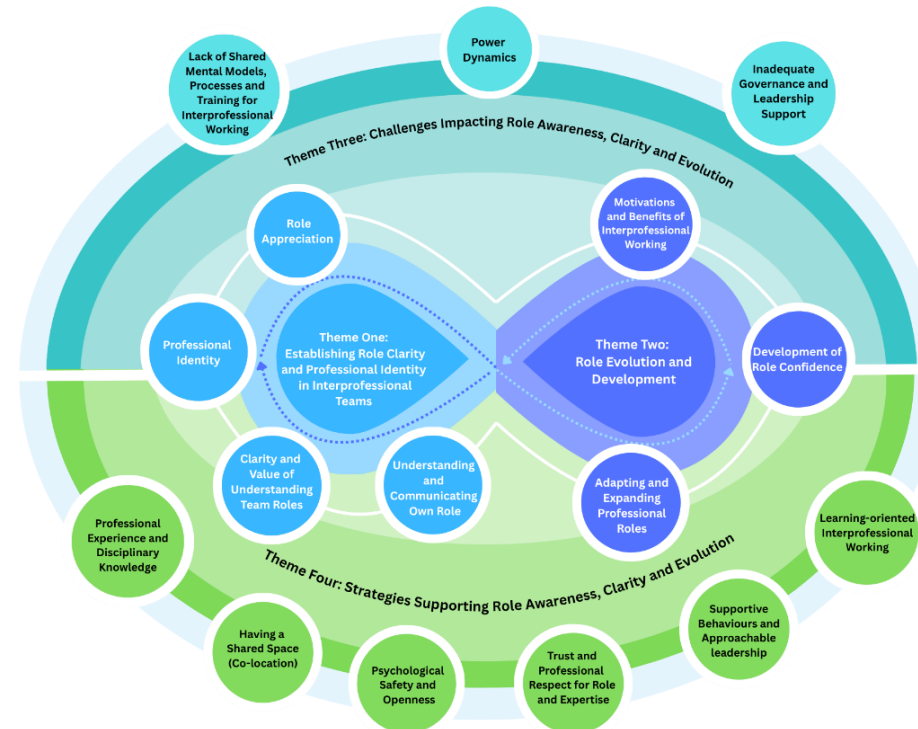
- Qualitative, exploratory study.
- Semi-structured interviews with members of four ICPop-CSTs in Ireland (N= 39).
- Participants represented all disciplines.
- Thematic data analysis.

RESULTS

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I think that the benefits of a team like this is that you can develop that understanding of others' roles, which is great. You become confident in the individual... there's awareness and an appreciation of each other... Anyone that applied for roles within this came because they have a passion for older persons and they wanted to stretch their roles that they're in... they wanted to make a difference for the individual. (Operational lead)

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IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSION

- The study emphasises the dynamic and iterative nature of role awareness and clarity formation, as well as role development and evolution within IPC.
- Role awareness and clarity are essential to role development and evolution as HCPs navigate expanded scopes of practice and negotiate overlapping roles and evolving responsibilities.
- The findings have meaningful impact on the development of integrated team working in community care pathways.
- Our findings were translated into a story-based educational intervention, co-designed with ICPop-CSTs and older adults, which is anticipated to enhance role awareness and clarity among team members through discussion of roles, and practice scope.

References

1. Integrated care for older people (ICOPE): guidance for person-centred assessment and pathways in primary care. WHO; 2024. Available from: [link](#)
2. O'Donnell D, O'Shea M, Donnelly S, et al. Getting Started in Developing Core Competences for Interprofessional Collaboration Within Integrated Care Teams for Older People: A Framework for the National Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons. UCD; 2021. Available from: [link](#)

Corresponding Author

Dr Sahar Hammoud Sahar.hammoud@ucd.ie