



Understanding Roles: How Working in Integrated Care Teams for Older Adults Shapes Professional Role Clarity



Hammoud S¹, De Brún A¹, Davies C¹, Green C¹, O'Shea M¹, Devaney C², Lang D², Whitty H², Hughes G², O'Donnell D¹

¹UCD Centre for Interdisciplinary Research, Education, & Innovation in Health Systems (UCD IRIS),
School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems, University College Dublin
²National Clinical Programme for Older People

INTRODUCTION

- Interprofessional Collaboration (IPC) is central to the WHO’s Integrated Care for Older People framework (1).
- Working within Integrated care teams (ICTs) such as the “Specialist community teams integrating care for older adults” (ICPOP-CSTs) requires team members to adapt to new roles, shifting boundaries, and new models of care (2).
- Role awareness and clarity are key enablers of effective IPC within ICPPOP-CSTs (3).

METHODS



- Qualitative, exploratory study.
- Semi-structured interviews were conducted with members of four ICPPOP-CSTs in Ireland (N= 39).
- Participants represented all disciplines.
- Interviews were conducted between May and July 2024.
- Data were analysed using thematic analysis.

RESULTS



References

- 1.Integrated care for older people (ICOPE): guidance for person-centred assessment and pathways in primary care. WHO; 2024. Available from: [link](#)
- 2.Barr H, Anderson ES, Hutchings M. Understanding integrated care. J Interprof Care. 2024;38(6): 974-84. [DOI](#)
- 3.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

AIM

To explore healthcare providers’ (HCPs) perceptions of role awareness and clarity within the context of ICPPOP-CST team working.



“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)



IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSION

- This 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 ICPPOP-CSTs and older adults, which is anticipated to enhance role awareness and clarity among team members through discussion of roles, and practice scope.