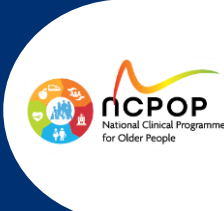




Communication and Information Sharing in Care

Integration for Older People: Exploring the Experiences of Irish Community Specialist Integrated Care Teams



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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)
- Communication and information sharing are key enablers of effective IPC within specialist community teams integrating care for older adults (ICPOP-CST) (2).

AIM

To explore and describe the communication and information-sharing practices of ICPPOP- CSTs as a lens through which to understand their IPC.



“Sharing the same office. We also share the same set of clinical notes, so we're not all working in silos. As such, we're working much, a little bit more together. There's a lot of transparency in terms of our communication, so we have a shared drive and there's very much an open transparency there. And I think that's really helpful. It gives a great understanding of the roles and responsibilities of everybody on the team. And it just helps with communication and interprofessional working relationships.” (InterRAI facilitator)

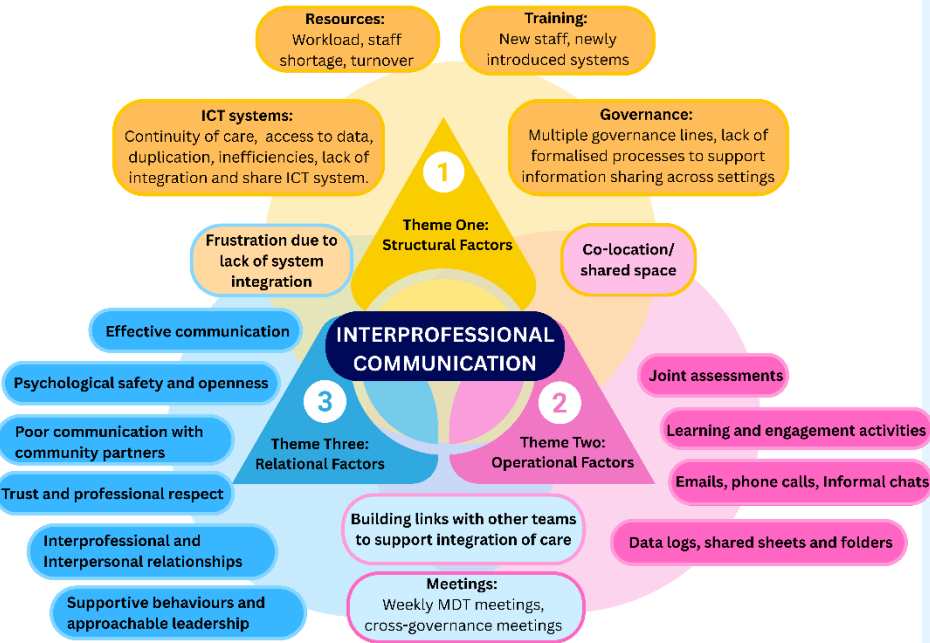


METHODS



- 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



The model highlights how structural factors provide the foundation that enables operational factors, which in turn foster relational factors. Relational factors also loop back to shape and influence both structural and operational dimensions, underscoring the dynamic and interconnected nature of interprofessional communication.

IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSION

- Effective communication and information sharing are fundamental to IPC and care integration.
- The findings have meaningful impact on enhancing information sharing and communication within community care, thus supporting improved IPC and integration of care of older people.
- Careful planning of communication pathways within and across organisational levels is crucial for continuity of care as older people transition across care boundaries in integrated settings.

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](#)

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