

Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity

"Research that makes a difference"

General practice and community health

GPDV

March 2007



*Most people, when they have a fault,
try to correct it.*

*This is like trying to patch a cracked
boiler.*

Wang Yangming (1472-1529)

Overview

- General practice and community health
- Why patch the boiler?
- What do they have to contribute?
- What do we need to get right?
- How do we know if we've got it right?
- Some models

Specialist
services

Private
allied health

Divisions

Regional
structures

Practices

CH centres

Practice staff

CH staff

Why patch the boiler?

- Workforce shortages
- Access to primary health care
- Equity
- Integration and coordination of care
- Better balance across the continuum of care
- Better mix of medical, psychological and social care

Canadian analysis

- What might we want?
 - Effectiveness, productivity, accessibility, continuity, quality, responsiveness
- Models for organising PHC
 - Professional
 - Contact/coordination
 - Community models
 - Non-integrated/integrated

Lamarche et al (2003). Choices for Change The path for restructuring primary health care in Canada

Canadian analysis

	Int comm	Prof contact
• Effectiveness	✓	
• Quality	✓	
• Efficiency	✓	
• Continuity	✓	
• Equity	✓	
• Responsiveness		✓
• Accessibility		✓

Canadian analysis

- “If the attainment of all these desired effects is pursued, it is the combination of the integrated community model and the professional contact model which should be favoured, so long as ways are found to fill some remaining gaps in access to care. This ... maximises all desired effects while minimising duplication and capitalising on the organisation that is currently in place”

How do we ...

- Balance population and individual focus?
- Combine medical and psycho-social approaches to care?
- Respect professional autonomy?
- Maintain a focus on equity?
- Set priorities?

Some models

- Informal referral relationships
- Formal shared care
- A network of services
- Co-location of separate services
- A GP within a CHC / CHC staff within a general practice
- Integrated service
 - May be new organisational structure

What will need patching?

- Funding models
- Governance
- Professional support and development
- Teamwork
- Systems to support more integrated care
- Relationship with community
- Relationship to rest of health system
- Managing risks for all stakeholders

Evaluation

- Does the centre have an organisation and structure that can support an effective, integrated and sustainable health service?
- Does the centre have systems and processes that enable staff to provide integrated care?

Evaluation

- Do the services provided by the Centres meet the needs of patients and the local community?
- How well does the centre function as part of the wider network of health and health related services?

