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Long-Paper:

Patient-centered care as a facilitator for network integration.

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Abstract

In the recent years, networking in healthcare has taken on various organizational forms. Service integration brings together actors from different fields and different system levels. It is about time to gain a deeper understanding about the patients' role in such networks. For this work-in-progress paper we reviewed a large number of network studies to figure out *if and how* the patients' perspective is considered in network collaboration. Therefore, we analyzed certain regulation practices on the network-level and related them to the concept of patient-centered care (PCC). As a result, we identified five dimensions which connect network-regulation and patient-centered care in healthcare networks. We discussed our findings in the broader context of "fragmentation vs. integration in healthcare" and put emphasis on the role that patient-centered care could play for network integration.

Keywords: Network-level research, regulation practices, patient-centered care, healthcare integration.