The Puzzle of Coherence

Cross-sectorial Collaboration in Danish Healthcare

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Background
Elderly patients with multiple chronic diseases experience poor-quality care and lack of coherence in treatment and patient-pathways, despite healthcare providers’ and politicians’ concerted efforts to create coherence in cross-sectorial collaboration across primary and secondary sectors in Danish healthcare.

Aim
• Explore different roles of health care providers in the cross-sectorial collaboration
• Identify areas for improvement or change of collaborative practice between health care providers in municipalities, hospitals and general practice

Method and Data Material
• Ethnographically inspired method
• Field observation for data collection
• 10 65+-year-old patients with multiple chronic diseases followed through their patient pathways from admission to acute care ward to discharge and in later meetings with healthcare providers in general practice, outpatient clinics, home care and physiotherapy
• Additional field observations conducted in general practice, home care and rehabilitation settings

Perspectives
• New valuable insight into areas of cross-sectorial health care collaboration
• Facilitation of change in current practice and improvement of quality and coherence in patient-pathways of elderly patients with multiple chronic diseases

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