What is the evidence on interventions to manage referral from primary to specialist non-emergency care? A systematic review and logic model synthesis


Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment from a member of INAHTA. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors' objectives
This research aimed to conduct an inclusive systematic review and logic model synthesis in order to better understand factors impacting on the effectiveness of interventions targeting referral between primary and secondary medical health care.

Authors' conclusions
The findings highlight the complexity of the referral process and multiple elements that will impact on intervention outcomes and applicability to a local area. Any interventions seeking to change referral practice need to address factors relating to the individual practitioner, the patient and also the situation in which the referral is taking place. These conclusions apply especially to referral management in a UK context where this whole range of factors/issues lies well within the remit of the NHS. This work highlights that intermediate outcomes are important in the referral pathway. It is recommended that researchers include measure of these intermediate outcomes in their evaluation of intervention effectiveness in order to determine where blocks to or facilitators of system-wide impact may be occurring.

Final publication URL
http://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/hsdr/hsdr03240/#/abstract

Indexing Status
Subject indexing assigned by CRD

MeSH
Humans; Referral and Consultation; Primary Health Care; Specialization; Models, Theoretical

Language Published
English

Country of organisation
England

English summary
An English language summary is available.

Address for correspondence
HS&DR Programme, National Institute for Health Research, Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre, University of Southampton, Alpha House, Enterprise Road, Southampton, SO16 7NS, UK Tel: +44 23 8059 4304 Email: hsdriinfo@southampton.ac.uk

AccessionNumber
32015000571
Date abstract record published
27/05/2015