

Now more than ever: role of primary care for relevant health care for people and populations

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Opening semFYC Congress

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Best Wishes Wonca

Importance Primary Health Care (WHO Resolution)

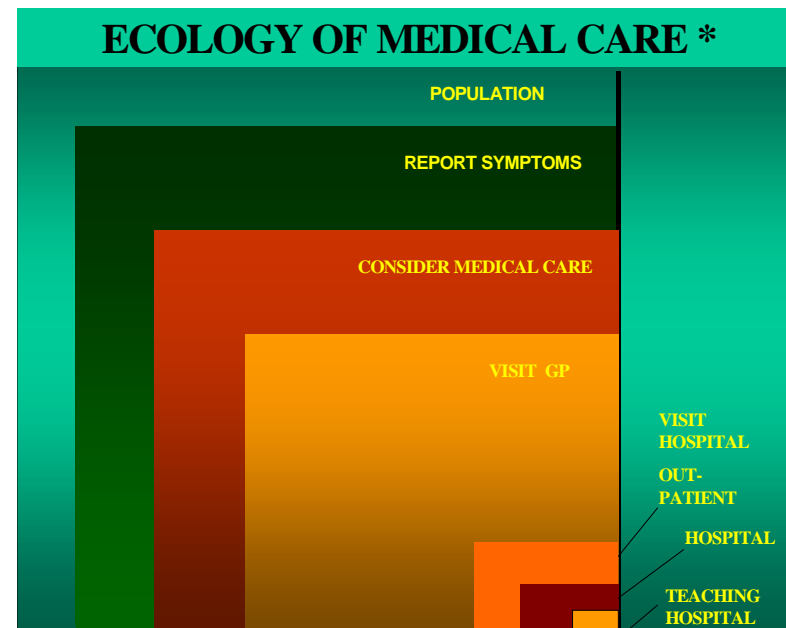
Teaching, Training, Research in Primary Care

University Involvement **with** Primary Care



'Reach' of Primary Care

- Primary care morbidity
 - Unique domain illness, disease
- Population perspective
 - Needs, intersectorial
- Patient perspective
 - Personal doctor
 - Empowerment, needs vs. demands
- System perspective
 - Navigating resources



* White et al NEJM 1961
Green et al NEJM 2001

Exploring empirical evidence of practice:

hypertension treatment of physicians internal medicine and family physicians



The Family Physician, Norman Rockwell 1947

Performance FPs - Physicians (hypertension)

	UNCOMPLICATED	COMPLICATED
FP	Few interventions Limited time Purposeful	More interventions More time Exploring
PHYSICIAN		Protocol driven Relative limited time Purposeful

Gerritsma en Smal, 1982

Performance FPs - Physicians (hypertension)

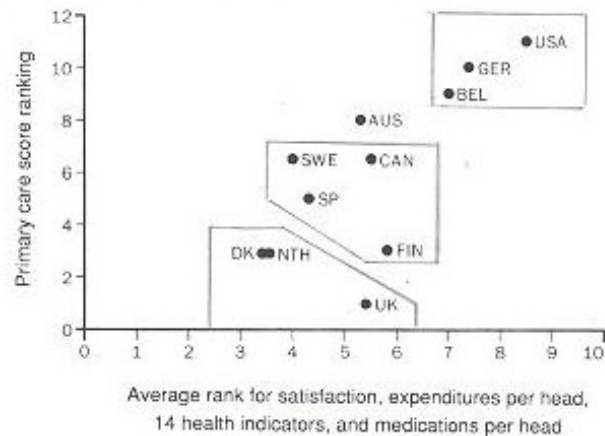
	UNCOMPLICATED	COMPLICATED
FP	<p>Few interventions</p> <p>Limited time</p> <p>Purposeful</p>	<p>More interventions</p> <p>More time</p> <p>Exploring</p>
PHYSICIAN	<p>More interventions</p> <p>More time</p> <p>Exploring</p>	<p>Protocol driven</p> <p>Relative limited time</p> <p>Purposeful</p>

Gerritsma en Smal, 1982

Lessons of the Example

- Importance of clinical environment
 - Frequent health problems (early diagnosis, follow-up)
- Practice primarily focussed on 'norm'
 - Exceptions require additional interventions
- Generic but context dependent
 - International position of family medicine
- **Practice way ahead of science and education**
 - Practice-based research and teaching
 - Need for Specialty Training & University Departments PHC

Effectiveness Primary Care



* Starfield B. Is primary care essential? Lancet 1994

Primary care point access associated:

- decrease in mortality¹.
- improved health outcomes (all-cause, cancer, heart disease, stroke, infant mortality, low birth weight, life expectancy, self-rated health)².
- higher life expectation³.
- early detection of breast cancer⁴.
- early detection of cervical cancer⁵.

Poor understanding of why it is effective

Black box, counterintuitive:

‘Paradox of Primary Care’

multimorbidity determining factor

1. Gulliford, J Public Health Med 2002; 24:252-4
2. Macinko J et al, Int J Health Serv. 2007;37(1):111-26.
3. Franks & Fiscella, J Fam Pract 1998; 47:105-9.
4. Ferrante et al, J Am Board Fam Pract 2000; 13:408-14.
5. Campbell et al, Fam Med 2003; 35:60-4.

Professor Chris van Weel

Role, function family physician values to innovate practice and direct research



- Medical generalist
 - All health problems
 - All stages
 - All Individuals
 - Need driven
- Community oriented
 - Family or household focus
 - Social determinants
- Personal doctor
 - Patient centred
 - Integrated care
 - Continuity of care

Research, Teaching to the Village Square: partnership with practices (PBRN)




- Bring practice to research
- Bring research to practice
- Relation university
- Practice basis academic staff



WHO 62nd WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Resolution WHA62.12: Primary health care, including health system strengthening

- People at the centre of health care
 - To train and retain adequate numbers of health workers, ... including primary health care nurses, midwives, allied health professionals and family physicians
 - Vertical (disease-specific) programmes integrated, implemented in primary health care;
 - Access to appropriate medicines, health products and technologies, required to support primary health care;
- 

Conclusions

- *Now more than ever:*
 - Primary care matters
 - **It saves lives, and not only money**
 - Better population health and better functioning health care system
 - Performance in multimorbidity key factor
- Impact of core concepts general practice
 - Personal, continuous, social/family context, trust, responsiveness
- Multimorbidity in patients priority research
 - Multimorbidity is not multiplying single diseases' management
 - More insight will help to understand effectiveness of primary care
- Need research, teaching training: University Departments of Primary Care