

Care Coordination Implementation in Dentistry

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Abstract

Background: Care coordination has been found to improve health outcomes and efficiency of health care systems. Well-designed, targeted care coordination that is delivered to the right people can improve outcomes for everyone: patients, providers, and payers. We aim to determine the efficacy of care coordination in dental settings and present it as a solution to ameliorate barriers to access to dental care.

Method: Scientific literature was reviewed regarding the use and application of care coordination in dental settings specifically to determine the viability of this approach from the lens of its sustainability and benefits in the State of New York. We utilized PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar, CINAHL, and Embase as empirical databases to conduct the literature search.

Results: Care coordination was found to be a valuable tool that could be used to improve the quality, efficiency, and accessibility of dental care. The focus of all care coordination programs should be on improving communication and collaboration between providers, reducing duplication of services, ensuring timely and appropriate care for patients, and assisting patients in navigating the complex healthcare system. It can be implemented in a variety of ways. The best approach varies depending on the specific needs of the patient population and the resources available. Based on the findings, recommendations were put forth to inform policy and promote the use of care coordination in dental settings. The recommendations focused on addressing policy and regulatory gaps. These recommendations possibly could support consideration for reimbursement of care coordination in dental settings by Medicaid in New York State.

Conclusion: Dental care coordination is a crucial strategy to address the burden of oral diseases in the State of New York. By adopting and implementing the proposed recommendations, the dental industry can better serve the needs of vulnerable populations, reduce the economic impact of oral diseases, and improve overall patient health and well-being.