

M29 Successful implementation of a geriatric co-management program (G-COACH): findings from a mixed-methods implementation project

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Abstract title	Successful implementation of a geriatric co-management program (G-COACH): findings from a mixed-methods implementation project
Abstract body	<p>Purpose: To determine successful strategies and determinants for the implementation of an in-hospital geriatrics co-management programme.</p> <p>Methods: A mixed-methods implementation study was performed on two cardiac care units of the University Hospitals Leuven. The programme was implemented and three cohorts of 30 patients were recruited to measure the acceptability, feasibility, reach and fidelity using patient interviews and care documentations in the electronic patient record. Key implementation strategies included context assessment, stakeholder engagement, educational presentations, fact sheets, leadership support, and audit and feedback. A total of 27 healthcare professionals were interviewed to learn about the experiences related to the implementation, and a total of 46 professionals were recruited to measure the acceptability and feasibility using a survey.</p> <p>Results: A total of 91% of the patients was reached by the programme. The large majority of both patients and healthcare professionals rated G-COACH as acceptable (95% and 94%) and feasible (96% and 74%) to perform. There was a high fidelity for the major components of the programme: documentation of geriatric risks (98%), co-management by specialist geriatrics nurse (95%), early rehabilitation (80%), and early discharge planning (74%), except for co-management by the geriatrician (32%). The most important determinants for the implementation were staffing, competing roles and tasks of the specialist geriatrics nurse (i.e. balancing consultation and co-management) and leadership support.</p> <p>Conclusion: A multi-phased and stakeholder-centred approach to implementation led to a successful implementation of G-COACH. While the program focused on initiating the program, additional strategies are likely needed for the sustainability.</p>