**EXPLORING MULTI-DISCIPLINARY HEALTH SERVICE PROVISION FOR ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL/DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IN TEAM-BASED PRIMARY CARE**

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**Objectives:** Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) often require increased attention from health care providers and have a greater need for health care resources compared to the general population. Although it is recognized that adults with I/DD can require high health service needs, many individuals continue to experience inequities in healthcare access and provision. As the first point of contact, primary care providers offer continuity, coordination of care and are often the most consistently available healthcare provider. To date, much of the work on primary care for individuals with I/DD have focused on service provision, practice guidelines and professional development at the physician level. Primary care guidelines have encouraged the use of multi-disciplinary providers to assist physicians with health promotion, management and disease prevention. With the inclusion of multi-disciplinary health providers in primary care organizations a need has been identified to understand how and what additional health services are provided for adults with I/DD in this setting. The purpose of this embedded, multiple case study will be to describe the provision and use of multi-disciplinary health services by adults with I/DD in team-based primary care practices.

**Method:** A embedded, multiple case study design will be utilized to understand how multi-disciplinary health services are provided and used by adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities in four different health service organizations. At the stage in the research, multi-disciplinary health services will be defined as any health service or program provided by one (or more) multi-disciplinary health service providers (ex. Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietitian, Social Worker) connected to a team-based primary care organization (ex. Community Health Center, Family Health Team, Family Health Organizations, Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic). The study will be situated within the Kingston Health Link, a sub-region of the South-East Local Health Integration Network. Information for the cases will be drawn from several sources including key information interviews with leaders within the health service, adults with I/DD and involved caregivers, surveys of health care providers and review of supporting document analysis. The multiple case design will allow for both individual case analysis and cross case comparisons. The embedded cases will allow for a greater in-depth review of adults with I/DD experiences with accessing these services within the different healthcare organizations.

**Results:** This project is in its initial phase.

**Discussion/Conclusion:** It is unclear what multi-disciplinary, primary care services adults with I/DD are using, as well as, how they are being promoted, provided and experienced. The aim of this research is to develop a greater understanding of how multi-disciplinary health services are currently organized and provided for adults with I/DD within different models of team-based primary care. It will also provide greater insight into the scope of current multi-disciplinary services for adults with I/DD and potentially identify additional areas of practice. It is the hope that this research may contribute to increasing adults with I/DD, caregivers and healthcare providers’ awareness of the potential roles and benefit of multi-disciplinary health services for adults with I/DD within primary care.

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