

General practice, primary healthcare and the community: linking the dots

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Content



- Healthcare challenges and Primary Healthcare in the 21^{ste} century
- Recent evolutions in the Belgian Healthcare sector
- Primary care research: needs and examples
- Key messages

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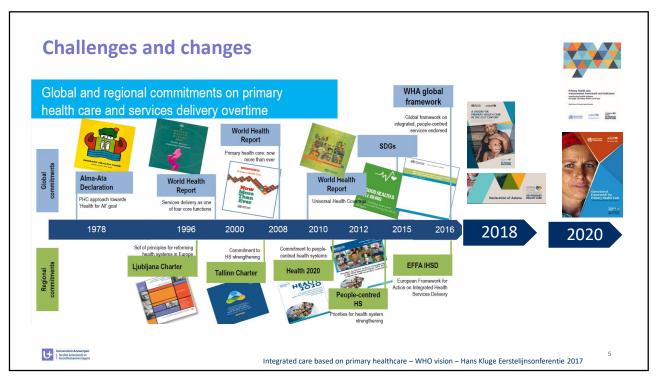
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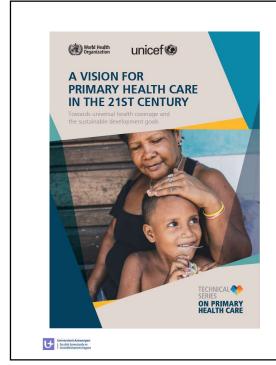


Enormous challenges in healthcare

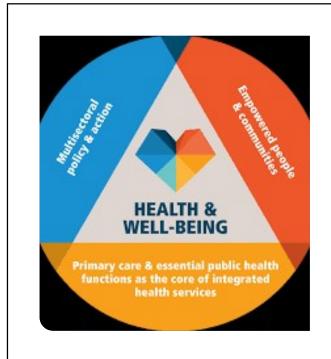
- Aging population
- Rise of chronic conditions
- Increasing health inequality
- Changing expectations and needs (patients and healthcare workforce)
- Shortage in staff
- Scientific innovations/technology
- Rising budgets
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Health and wellbeing for all = strong primary healthcare



Primary healthcare

- Integrated health services to meet people's health needs throughout their lives
- Addressing the broader determinants of health through multisectoral policy and action
- Empowering individuals, families and communities to take charge of their own health.

https://www.who.int/health-topics/primary-health-care#tab=tab_1

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Primary Healthcare in Belgium



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Primary Healthcare in Belgium

- Based on principles of independent medical practice most GPs are self-employed
- Currently we have 2 financing mechanisms GP (and patients) have to choose:
 - Fee for service
 - Forfait per registered patient ('Integrated needs-adjusted capitation')
 - (proposal: mixed system)
- GPs have no gate-keeping role but there is a GMF (Global Medical File)
- GP workforce:
 - 1.14 GPs per 1000 inhabitants but unequally distributed
 - GP trainees: 40% of total trainees

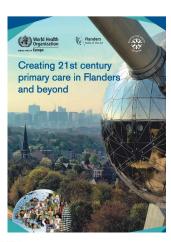


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Evolutions in the Belgian Healthcare Sector

Flanders: reforming primary care

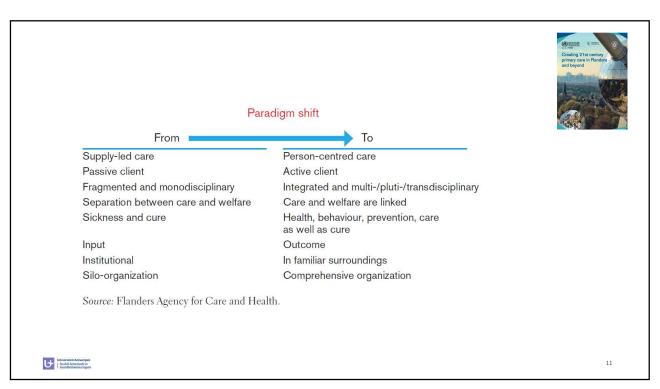


New Deal in the GP practice



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Primary care reform in Flanders

Flemish Institute for Primary Care



We need to learn from one another, by trial and error. VIVEL will not solve all problems by itself. It is precisely by working closely with the primary care zones, the authorities and all other stakeholders that we will be able to seek out the solutions. This is a commitment we need to take on together. - VIVEL Chairman Gerrit Rauws

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New Deal for the GP practice





□ Sufficient GP (practices) equally spread

- Proportion of GP trainees: 40% of total trainees
- Incentives to start practice/working in 'deprived' area



□ Lifting administrative overburdening

- Sick leave note
- Attestation for medication



☐ Improving accessibility

- Third party payment
- Focus on < 25 with Global Medica File and increased reimbursement



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New Deal for the GP practice





□ Organisation of care

- 'The right care at the right place by the right person'
 - GP surrounded by team of professionals
 - Primary care psychologist
 - Care trajectories (e.g. diabetes care, perinatal care)
 - Supported by technological innovation (teleconsultations)
- Multidisciplinary integrated patient file
- Well planned out of hours care (continuity AND wellbeing GPs)



☐ Financing primary care

Move away from fee for service towards an integrated financial model

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Linking Primary Care research

PHC component

- Integrated health services to meet people's health needs throughout their lives
- Addressing the broader determinants of health through multisectoral policy and action
- Empowering individuals, families and communities to take charge of their own health.

Attention point for research

- Interdisciplinary research(ers)
- Involving healthcare professionals as research partners
- Research into digital health solutions
- Intersectoral research(ers) involve stakeholders and policy makers
- Involve patients and communities as research partners



Bierman A 2022. Realizing the dream: The future of primary care research

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- Supports healthcare providers in mapping psychosocial needs and refer patients to local welfare partners.
- 'Social prescribing'
- Implementation via Primary Care Zones
- Since 2020

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Outreach work and co-creation with communities



Health Kiosk Local 'bottom up' initiatif

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Community Health Workers Pilot project Federal Government

'Reverse Innovation' 'Access to care model'

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Key messages - Connecting the dots



- To implement the core components of strong primary care
- Innovative approaches to primary care research are needed
- Collaboration and linking
 - Practice and research
 - Professionals and community
 - Healtcare, welfare, education, urban design,...
 - Take context into account and embrace complexity
 - Get familiar with implementation science



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