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## **Opinions of the primary healthcare team about the integrated care of patients with type 2 Diabetes and Hypertension in Slovenia**

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**Purpose:** To explore the views and opinions of primary healthcare teams about the integrated care of patients with type 2 diabetes and hypertension in primary care.

**Theory:** Integrated care includes good coordination, networking, and communication within healthcare services and externally between providers and patients or informal caregivers. It affects the quality of services, is more cost-effective, and contributes to greater satisfaction of individuals and providers of integrated care.

**Methods:** Data collection was done through 8 focus groups with the healthcare teams. A total of 48 health professionals were involved. The main integrated care package topics discussed were: identification of people with the disease, primary care treatment, health education, self-management support, and collaboration between caregivers, with a special focus on the obstacles and facilitators for scaling-up. The analysis was performed in the NVivo program, using a coding tree with 12 main themes and 52 first level sub-themes.

**Findings:** Health care professionals expressed that the current system of integrated care had good accessibility and method of diagnostic screening incorporated in preventive examinations. They mentioned good cooperation within the team; they saw a special advantage in involvement of registered and community nurses. The obstacles were high workload and lack of workforce. They considered that patients did not take the disease seriously and that patients as teachers could be useful.

**Discussion:** Opinions of health care providers offer valuable insight into the current situation and provide concrete suggestions on task-shifting solutions to transfer competencies and relieve the burden of healthcare professionals.