

## SYSTEMATIC REVIEW ARTICLE

## Interprofessional collaborative practices in primary health care: a scoping review protocol

*Práticas colaborativas interprofissionais em cuidados de saúde primários: um protocolo de scoping review*

*Prácticas colaborativas en el proceso de trabajo interprofesional en atención primaria: un protocolo scoping review*

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### Abstract

**Background:** Collaborative practices have been recommended as working tools to improve Primary Health Care (PHC).

**Objective:** To map interprofessional collaborative practices used in PHC based on available data.

**Review method:** Scoping review protocol as recommended by the Joanna Briggs Institute. This review aims to answer the following questions based on the Population-Concept-Context (PCC) strategy: What strategies do the health teams use to develop interprofessional collaborative practices in PHC units? Searches will include both published and unpublished studies using quantitative or qualitative methods, literature reviews, and grey literature. Two independent “blinded” reviewers will select the studies using the Rayyan software (Qatar Computing Research Institute, QCRI).

**Presentation and interpretation of results:** The results will be described in a narrative format and divided into categories that may emerge from the analyzes. Images or graphics may be used.

**Conclusion:** This study will contribute to strengthening the collaborative teamwork process in search of comprehensive care.

**Keywords:** primary health care; interdisciplinary practices; collaborative practices; interprofessional collaboration; health systems

### Resumo

**Enquadramento:** As práticas colaborativas têm sido recomendadas como ferramentas do processo de trabalho para qualificar o cuidado na atenção primária à saúde (APS).

**Objetivo:** Mapear o conhecimento existente sobre as práticas colaborativas no processo de trabalho interprofissional.

**Método de revisão:** Protocolo de *scoping review* fundamentado pelo *Joanna Briggs Institute*. Pretende responder à seguinte questão fundamentada pela estratégia População-Conceito-Contexto (PCC): Quais são as estratégias adotadas pelas equipas de saúde para desenvolver práticas colaborativas de trabalho interprofissional em unidades de APS? As pesquisas incluirão estudos publicados ou não, com métodos quantitativos ou qualitativos, revisão da literatura e literatura cinzenta. A seleção dos estudos será realizada por 2 revisores independentes e às cegas, por meio do Rayyan Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI).

**Apresentação e interpretação dos resultados:** A descrição dos achados ocorrerá de forma narrativa e dividida em categorias que possam emergir das análises. Poderão ser utilizadas imagens ou gráficos.

**Conclusão:** Fornecerá contribuição para o fortalecimento do processo de trabalho colaborativo em equipa, em busca da integralidade do cuidado.

**Palavras-chave:** atenção primária à saúde; práticas interdisciplinares; práticas colaborativas; colaboração interprofissional; sistemas de saúde

### Resumen

**Marco contextual:** Las prácticas colaborativas han sido recomendadas como herramientas del proceso de trabajo para cualificar los cuidados en la atención primaria de salud (APS).

**Objetivo:** Mapear el conocimiento existente sobre las prácticas de colaboración en el proceso de trabajo interprofesional.

**Método de revisión:** Protocolo de revisión exploratoria (*scoping review*) basado en el Instituto Joanna Briggs. Pretende responder a la siguiente pregunta fundamentada en la estrategia Población-Concepto-Contexto (PCC): ¿Cuáles son las estrategias adoptadas por los equipos de salud para desarrollar prácticas colaborativas de trabajo interprofesional en las unidades de APS? La investigación incluirá estudios publicados o no, con métodos cuantitativos o cualitativos, revisión de la literatura y literatura gris. La selección de los estudios la realizarán dos revisores independientes a ciegas mediante el Rayyan Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI).

**Presentación e interpretación de los resultados:** La descripción de los hallazgos se hará de forma narrativa y podrá dividirse en categorías que puedan surgir del análisis; se podrán utilizar imágenes o gráficos.

**Conclusión:** Aportará una contribución al fortalecimiento del proceso de trabajo colaborativo en equipo, en busca de la integralidad de la atención.

**Palabras clave:** atención primaria de salud; prácticas interdisciplinarias; prácticas colaborativas; colaboración interprofesional; sistemas de salud

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## Introduction

Collaborative practices and interprofessional teamwork are strategies that contribute to comprehensive care and improve access to and quality of health care (Peduzzi & Agreli, 2018). Their characteristics include more effective communication processes among team members, setting common goals, shared decision-making, recognition of the role and work of other team members, professionals' autonomy, and horizontality of work relationships (Agreli et al., 2016).

In everyday life, it is a challenge to move through the different fields of knowledge while respecting the core of the several professions (Campos, 2000) because health workers maintain very restricted and occasional interactions in their work routines. This situation undermines the ability to tackle the problems resulting from clinical practice and achieve better patient outcomes, compromising the quality of health services (Baird et al., 2019). In the face of these new challenges in their work process, these professionals need to acquire new skills and competencies to tackle the current health problems and redirect the work method (Escalda & Parreira, 2018).

Interprofessional practice contributes to this process, being a dynamic activity where professionals learn to work together to recognize each profession's actions, knowledge, and roles and collectively set the common goals in healthcare planning with a positive impact on care (Peduzzi & Agreli, 2018).

The collective, simultaneous effort to achieve the same objective is the main characteristic of interprofessional work. It is different from the actions of multidisciplinary teams, in which the members tend to work in parallel and do not collaborate in an integrated way to achieve the objectives (Choi & Pak, 2007). The development of interprofessional work and collaborative practice is essential for the quality of health care and the safety and satisfaction of patients and professionals (Brandt et al., 2014).

Through interprofessional collaborative practice, health teams carry out the care plan with collective actions directed at common tasks (Reeves, 2016). Resources are used to meet the population's specific needs and provide better primary health care (PHC; World Health Organization, 2010).

Therefore, these practices reduce healthcare costs, improve the quality of care, and provide better experiences to patients throughout their care journey (Brandt et al., 2014). In this way, they improve the satisfaction of both patients and families, integrate changes through the shared decision-making process, and reduce clinical error rates (Peduzzi et al., 2016).

Considering the relevance and topicality of this theme, this scoping review aims to map interprofessional collaborative practices used in PHC process based on available evidence to answer the following question: What strategies do the health teams use to develop interprofessional collaborative practices used in PHC units?

## Review Method

This scoping review will follow the methodological recommendations proposed by the Joanna Briggs Institute (Peters et al., 2020). Scoping reviews aim to map the main concepts that support a given area of knowledge, identify knowledge gaps, and provide an overview of existing evidence.

This review will be carried out in five stages: identification of the research question; search for relevant studies; selection of studies; data extraction; and presentation and discussion of the results (Peters et al., 2019).

This review will include published or unpublished studies using quantitative and qualitative methods, literature reviews, and grey literature. Studies in Portuguese, English, and Spanish available in open access will be included.

The search will be carried out in the Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature (LILACS®) via Virtual Health Library (BVS); Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online (MEDLINE®) via PubMed; Google Scholar®; EMBASE® (Elsevier); Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL®) via EBSCO; The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL®); PsycINFO®, American Psychological Association; Bank of Theses and Dissertations of the Portal of the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES); Theses Database; Proceedings of the Brazilian Collective Health Congress and the Health Policy, Planning, and Management Congress [*Anais do Congresso Brasileiro de Saúde Coletiva e do Congresso de Política, Planejamento e Gestão em Saúde*].

This review will involve the following steps: (1) a search will be conducted in the MEDLINE database (via PubMed) to identify the most used words in the titles and abstracts and the index terms in the selected studies (Table 1); (2) after identifying the most frequent words and the descriptors in other databases (Health Sciences Descriptors - DeCS, PsycINFO Thesaurus, and CINAHL Headings), a unique search strategy will be developed considering the several databases; (3) two independent reviewers will analyze the reference lists of the selected studies for the inclusion of potential studies.

**Table 1***Example of the preliminary search on MEDLINE (via PubMed)*

Strategy	Records
Search (((((((((((((((collaboration[Title/Abstract]) OR (collaborations[Title/Abstract])) AND (interprofessional relations[Title/Abstract])) OR (relations, interprofessional[Title/Abstract])) AND (communication, interdisciplinary[Title/Abstract])) OR (communications, interdisciplinary[Title/Abstract])) AND (health team, interdisciplinary[Title/Abstract])) OR (health teams, interdisciplinary[Title/Abstract])) OR (“interdisciplinary communication”[Title/Abstract])) OR (“interprofessional collaboration”[Title/Abstract])) OR (“collaborative practice”[Title/Abstract])) OR (“Collaborative action”[Title/Abstract])) OR (“Interdisciplinary Placement”[Title/Abstract])) AND (care, primary health[MeSH Terms])) OR (“community healthcare”[Title/Abstract])) OR (“community healthcare service”[Title/Abstract]))	1329

### Strategy for searching and identifying studies

The review question and data collection were guided by the search strategy based on the Population, Concept, and Context (PCC) framework, an adaptation of the Population, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcome (PICO) strategy. These components are essential for defining the review question and undertaking the literature search.

Therefore, in this review, the population will consist of health teams, that is, the teams with direct responsibility for PHC health units in their area of reference, as well as in the development of bonds between professionals and users with longitudinal relationship, even when there is a referral to another level of care (Campos & Domitti, 2007). Teams will be considered regardless of their composition, gender, age, professional category, education level, employment relationship, length of professional experience, region of team allocation, and the region's vulnerability.

The concept will consist of interprofessional collaborative practices. This concept aims to describe the elements of interprofessional collaboration at a deeper level of joint work with intense interdependence (D'Almour, 2005; Lago, 2019), where professionals share knowledge, decisions, information, interventions and are empowered, respected, and recognized by each other in search of common goals (Peduzzi et al., 2020).

Finally, the context will consist of PHC units, which are the first contact with continuous person-centered care

(Lavras, 2011). They are part of the priority strategy for the expansion and consolidation of PHC and are committed to developing actions for health promotion and prevention, recovery, and rehabilitation of diseases and the most common injuries. They aim to provide comprehensive care to families through interprofessional work in a multidisciplinary team (Portaria N° 2.436/2017 do Ministério da Saúde, 2017).

#### Data extraction

Two independent *blinded* reviewers will select the studies by analyzing the titles and abstracts found in the initial search using Rayyan QCRI software. Studies will be selected based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria, using an instrument developed by the researchers in line with the review objective and question. Any disagreements will be resolved by consensus or with the help of a third researcher who will decide whether or not to include the study. When necessary, the authors of primary studies will be contacted for further information and clarification.

Table 2 shows the data extraction tool designed by the reviewers, including the title of the document, the authors' names, the year of publication, the objectives, the type of study, the population, and the strategies for developing collaborative practices. Data extraction is in line with the objective and question that will guide this review. Given that the instrument may change according to the researchers' needs, a pilot test will be carried out before the extraction phase.

**Table 2***Review instrument*

Interprofessional collaborative practices practice in primary health care: a scoping review protocol	
Data extraction tool	
	Person responsible for the extraction
1- Title	
2- Authors	
3- Year	
4- Objective	
5- Study design What type of study was conducted	
6- Population Professional category Sample (N) Inclusion/exclusion criteria	
7- Results What were the strategies used in the development of collaborative practices in PHC?	
8- Main findings related to the topic	
9- References Relevant references in the text	

*Note.* PHC = primary health care.

## Presentation and interpretation of the results

The results obtained will be presented in a flowchart, including a description of the selection steps and the number of studies in each phase based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The results will be presented in a narrative format and divided into categories emerging from the analyses. If necessary, researchers can use figures or charts to facilitate the understanding of the strategies used in PHC for the development of collaborative practices. The review being proposed here will contribute to the dissemination of available evidence on the strategies adopted by health teams to develop interprofessional collaborative practices in PHC services for improved care delivery.

## Conclusion

Through knowledge sharing between professionals and their empowerment in search of a common goal, collaborative practices are an important tool in the work process in PHC because teamwork becomes more effective and healthcare access and quality improve.

Interprofessional collaborative practices of a health team are essential to produce better outcomes in care delivery. Therefore, this scoping review proposal will identify the strategies used by health teams to develop interprofessional collaborative practices in PHC units, contributing to

strengthening the collaborative teamwork process in the search for comprehensive care.

### Author contributions

Conceptualization: Fumagalli, I. H., Sudré, G. A., Matumoto, S.

Data curation: Fumagalli, I. H., Sudré, G. A., Matumoto, S.

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Writing – review & editing: Fumagalli, I. H., Sudré, G. A., Matumoto, S.

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