

Engaging Primary Health Care Providers in Local/Regional Governance

International Experience with
Local/Regional Primary Care Governance

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Local/Regional Primary Care Organizations

Meso-level organizations situated between a government and/or regional health authority and individual primary care providers and organizations

International Examples

- New Zealand
 - Independent Practitioner Organizations (IPAs) – 1990s
 - Primary Health Organizations – 2001
- Australia
 - Divisions of General Practice – 1990s
 - Medicare Locals – 2011

International Examples

- England
 - Primary Care Trusts
 - Clinical Commissioning Consortia - 2013
- Netherlands
 - Regional primary care cooperatives for out-of-hours services and chronic disease management

Functions

- Collective voice for general practice/primary care
- IT support and resources
- Shared clinical programs and administrative services
- Performance assessment , feedback and accountability
- Inter-sectoral linkage/integration
- Quality improvement support
- Budget-holding/purchasing

Trends

- Bottom-up organizations → vehicles for implementing government policy
- Smaller → larger organizations
- Focus on horizontal integration → focus on vertical integration
- Representation of general practice → representation of primary care and community

Trends

Increasing emphasis on:

- Population health
- Performance measurement and accountability
- Quality improvement
- Budget-holding