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Taking triple aim at Triple Aim: a health economics perspective

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What matters in health?

- Good structures
- Recognising and managing scarcity
- Health, not just health care

The focus of 'Triple Aim'

- Population health
- Patient experience
- Cost

Important antecedents

- Rational collective action
- Integration

My triple aim at Triple Aim

- Where is the 'integrator' in Canadian health care?

My triple aim at Triple Aim

- Where is the 'integrator' in Canadian health care?
 - **But is integration sufficient?**

Platitudes of health care reform

- Reforms all over the world state that the ‘new’ system will:
 - adopt ‘a balance of care’ approach
 - be about ‘effectiveness and efficiency’
 - adopt ‘an evidence-based approach’
 - ‘involve communities and other stakeholders’
 - have ‘resources follow patients’
 - ‘protect frontline services’.
- But no-one ever says how!!! i.e. what’s the process?

My triple aim at Triple Aim

- Where is the 'integrator' in Canadian health care?
 - But is integration sufficient?
- **Are we recognising and managing scarcity?**

An economics-based framework for needs assessment

An economic approach addresses need from the perspective of resources:

1. What resources are available in total?
2. In what ways are these resources currently spent?
3. What are the main candidates for more resources and what would be their effectiveness and cost?
4. Are there any areas of care which could be provided to the same level of effectiveness but with less resources, so releasing those resources to fund candidates from (3)?
5. Are there areas of care which, despite being effective, should have less resources because a proposal from 3. is more effective (for \$s spent)?

Can be applied at 'micro' or 'macro' levels

My triple aim at Triple Aim

- Where is the 'integrator' in Canadian health care?
 - But is integration sufficient?
- Are we recognising and managing scarcity?
- **Where does 'population health' fit?**

The Canadian finish

- A health care system fit for 21st Century needs
- Scarcity can be recognised and managed
- If we want to improve population health, don't invest in the health care system