

# Integrated Care Systems

*Psychiatric News* features highly informative content on the emerging practice model of integrated care.

Learn about:

- Predominant models of integrated care and the role psychiatrists play
- Working in integrated care settings
- Payment and delivery models
- APA resources on integrated care and delivery systems initiatives

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## Integrated Care: What Does It Mean for You?

"Integrated care" is everywhere—in theory, at least, and increasingly in practice. APA has established a number of initiatives in this area.

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## Integrated Care: What Does It Mean for You?

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"Integrated care" is everywhere—in theory, at least, and increasingly in practice. The concept is a feature of the delivery-system improvements in the new health care reform law, and policymakers and many clinicians have converged on the idea that general medical and behavioral health services should be brought together in a patient-centered manner. Today, a small but dedicated and growing cadre of psychiatrists is advancing the cause of integrated care and the participation of psychiatrists in collaborative-care models.

Integrated care "is the right thing to do to improve the care and quality of life for people we take care of." APA has established a number of initiatives in this area, headed up by the Work Group on Integrated Care of the Council on Healthcare Systems and Financing, chaired by Lori Raney, M.D., medical director of Axis Health System in Durango, Colo., and the Board of Trustees Health Care Reform Strategic Action Work Group, chaired by Howard Goldman, M.D., director of the Network on Mental Health Policy Research (funded by the MacArthur Foundation) and editor of the APA journal *Psychiatric Services*. Work group members include Jürgen Ünal, M.D., who is director of the Center for

Advancing Integrated Mental Health Solutions (AIMS) at the University of Washington and one of the pioneers of integration. Along with Wayne Katon, M.D., Ünal began developing models in integrating mental health and primary care and testing them in diverse primary and the country. Previously working on these issues was the APA Board of

group on Psychiatry and Healthcare Reform, chaired by Paul Summergrad, M.D., past-president and chair of psychiatry at Tufts University. Integrated care system is a new opportunity for psychiatrists—another option on they can use their license to care for people—but it is not a requirement, and it anyone. Moreover, psychiatrists can work part time in an integrated care maintaining whatever kind of traditional inpatient or outpatient practice they question 6). There are degrees of integrated care ranging from the original liaison psychiatry practiced in the hospital setting, to co-located care, in care and mental health services are offered in the same location, to a model—Ünal and colleagues—that involves a psychiatrist working in consultation with other specialists to manage the behavioral health of a defined population or is sometimes referred to as "collaborative care," and the two terms—collaborative care—are often used interchangeably. However, for the newsletter, the term "integrated care" will be used.

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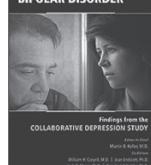
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