**Interprofessional Primary Care – A Pilot Project in Canton Uri**

**Involving General Practitioners And Nurse Practitioners**

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**Introduction**

General practitioners (GPs) have dominated Swiss primary care as single players, being available 24/7 and experiencing enormous time pressure to care for urgent acute cases as well as patients with chronic conditions.

This traditional model does not appeal to the younger physician generation, especially in rural areas of central Switzerland.

Also, interprofessional know-how is internationally recommended in chronic care management in order to capture the complex needs of patients with chronic conditions.

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**Aim**

The main aim is to describe in-depth the process of implementing interprofessional primary care in the canton of Uri, involving providers, policy makers, payers, and the public in canton Uri.

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**NP Scope of Practice**

In summer 2017, one or two Swiss NPs will start working in a GP’s office in the canton of Uri. They will mainly visit patients at home and in nursing homes, but also provide consultations in the office. Additionally, an associated nurse-led clinic is planned in a rural valley with strongly limited access to health care.

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**Education**

In recent years, the clinical education for nurses has expanded considerably in Switzerland, as well within MScN study programs as in post-graduate continuing education.

It is essential to integrate a medical preceptorship in order to achieve international standards for advanced clinical skills and critical thinking for clinical phenomena. In the future, NPs will be able to provide the clinical preceptorship themselves in collaboration with physician colleagues.

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**Nurse Practitioners**

Nurse practitioners (NP) are MSc in nursing graduates. After a clinically focused MScN curriculum, they have the potential to alleviate the challenging situation in primary care according to promising international experience and evidence. NPs are educated to:

- provide care in interprofessional teams
- meet patients’ previously unmet needs
- and allow GPs to focus on more specialized tasks.

Although nursing curricula at MSc level are federally accredited in Switzerland, the scope of clinical practice of MScN graduates is not yet determined, neither in practice nor in legal terms. Due to this inconsistency with international standards, we refer to “Swiss NPs” in this pilot project.

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**Evaluation**

We will analyse:

1) definition and distribution of tasks and responsibilities in primary care practice
2) legal aspects and reimbursement schemes
3) acceptance and satisfaction of interprofessional care among patients and other health care professionals; organizational issues and effects
4) cost-effectiveness
5) selected morbidity and mortality indicators

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**Conclusion**

NPs will become part of primary care practice in the rural canton of Uri. The model piloted here may be viewed as an example for similar settings and areas in Switzerland.

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