

Organizing Care for People Living with PCC/Long-COVID: Interviews with Canadian Health System Leaders

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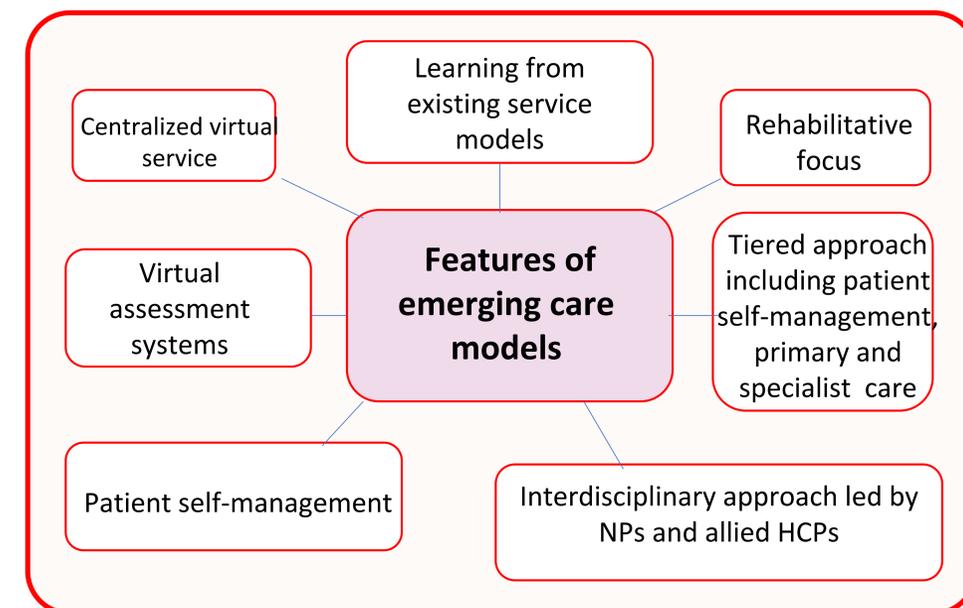
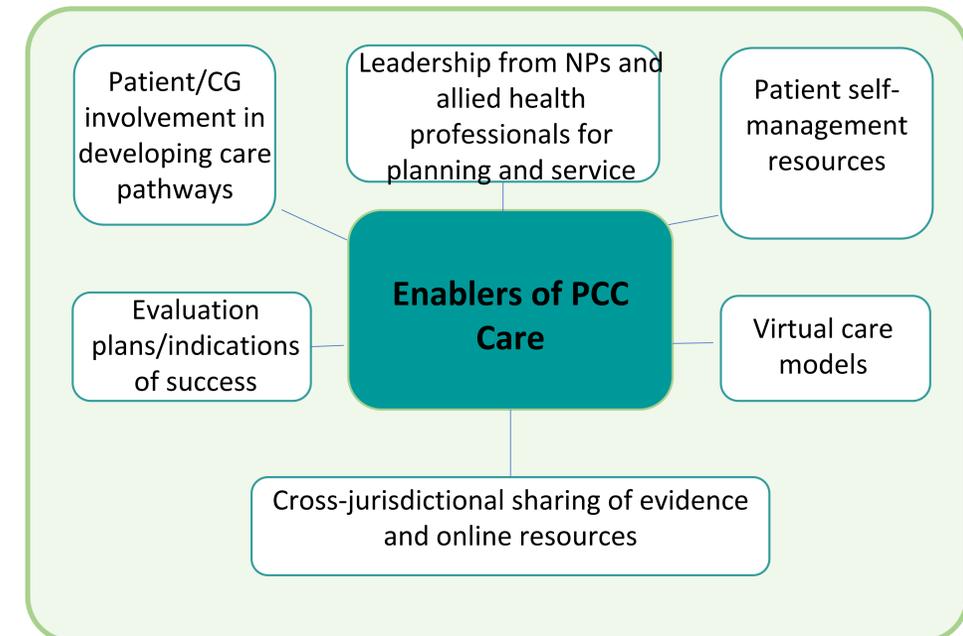
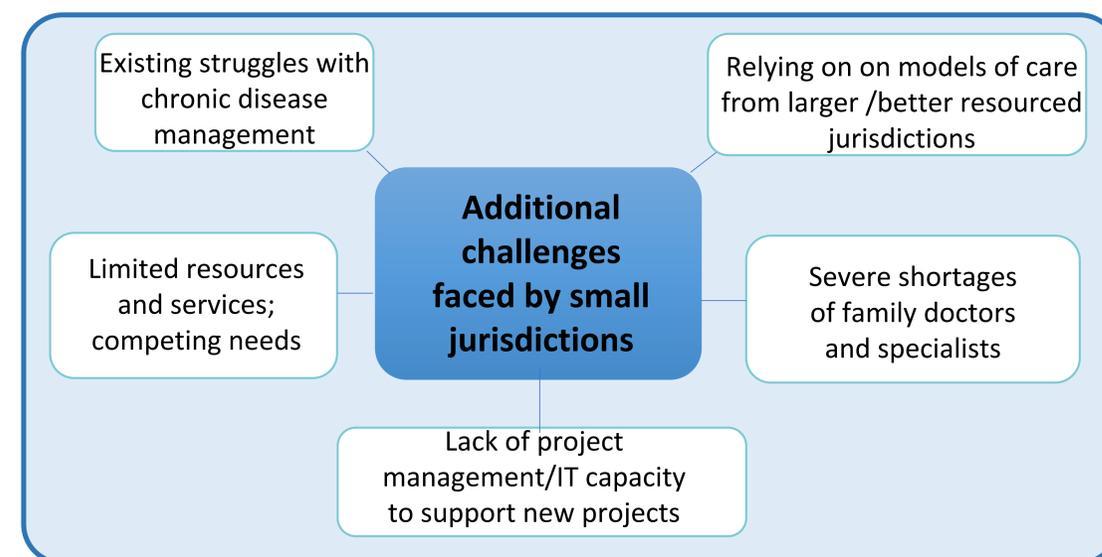
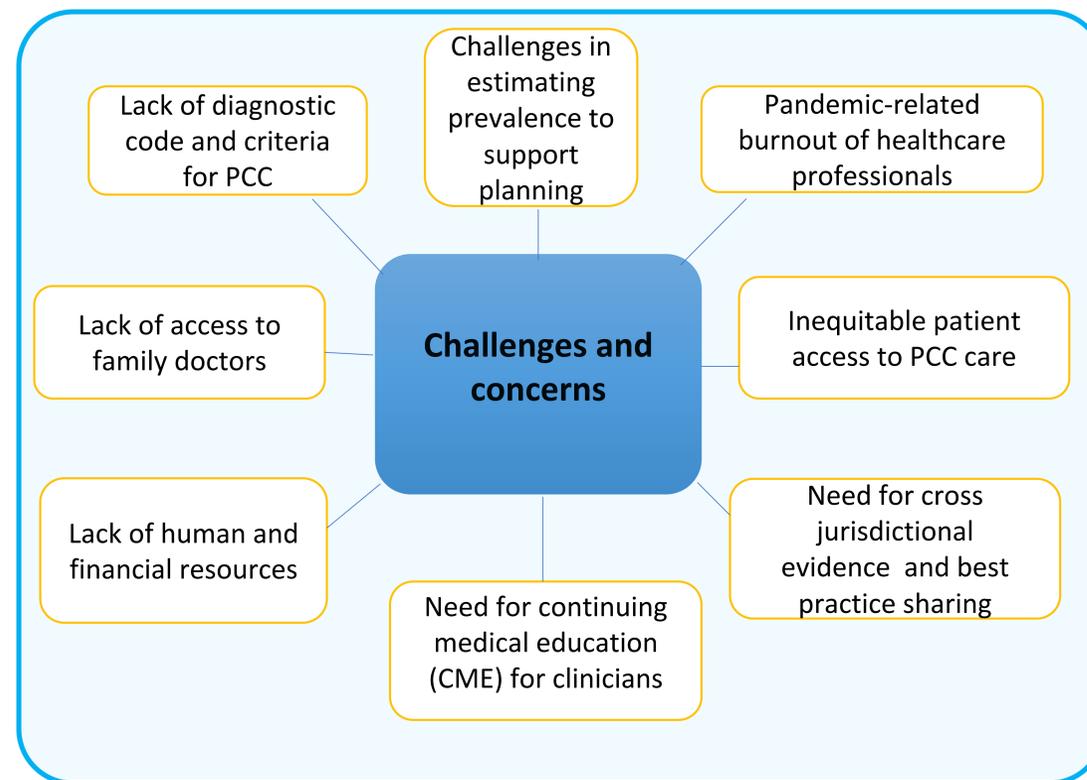
BACKGROUND

- Post-COVID-19 condition (PCC), or long COVID, refers to the long-term persistence of symptoms after infection with COVID-19. The WHO recognizes PCC 3 months after initial infection. PCC can be debilitating and profoundly affects quality of life. There remain many uncertainties around diagnosis, treatment, and long-term impacts, leaving patients and carers with many unmet needs for care and support.
- The Chief Science Advisor of Canada published broad recommendations relating to the management of PCC in Canada, but there is currently no consensus on an optimal model of care.
- We aimed to better understand the context of service development and emerging models of care for PCC patients across Canada, as well as challenges faced by those leading policy and practice development in different jurisdictions.

METHODS

- Qualitative descriptive design with semi-structured, virtual interviews conducted March-May 2023 via Zoom.
- Snowball sampling included family physicians, specialists, nurses, researchers, health service strategic and operational leaders.
- 17 senior decision makers from 8 provinces/territories (YK, BC, AB, SK, ON, QC, PEI, NL) were interviewed.
- Questions explored models of care being considered, team composition, progress to date, support needed and plans for evaluation.

FINDINGS



CONCLUSIONS

A variety of models of care are emerging in different jurisdictions. There is strong interest in cross-jurisdictional sharing of knowledge and resources. There is interest and potential to explore non-physician led models. Virtually-based patient self-management as a first line response was widely supported.

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