



Guided Care

Ann Fam Med 2010;8:iii. doi:10.1370/afm.1148.

The *Annals of Family Medicine* encourages readers to develop a learning community of those seeking to improve health care and health through enhanced primary care. You can participate by conducting a RADICAL journal club and sharing the results of your discussions in the *Annals* online discussion for the featured articles. RADICAL is an acronym for Read, Ask, Discuss, Inquire, Collaborate, Act, and Learn. The word *radical* also indicates the need to engage diverse participants in thinking critically about important issues affecting primary care and then acting on those discussions.¹

HOW IT WORKS

In each issue, the *Annals* selects an article or articles and provides discussion tips and questions. We encourage you to take a RADICAL approach to these materials and to post a summary of your conversation in our online discussion. (Open the article online and click on "TRACK Comments: Submit a response.") You can find discussion questions and more information online at: <http://www.AnnFamMed.org/AJC/>.



CURRENT SELECTION

Article for Discussion

Marsteller JA, Hsu YJ, Reider L, et al. Physician satisfaction with chronic care processes: a cluster-randomized trial of Guided Care. *Ann Fam Med*. 2010;8(4):308-315.

Discussion Tips

This article provides an opportunity to consider some of the effects and possibilities of an emerging collaborative model of care for complex patients.

Discussion Questions

- What question(s) are addressed by this article?
- Why is this study needed beyond previous research on this topic?

- How strong is the study design for answering the question?
- To what degree can the findings be accounted for by:
 1. How physicians and their patients were selected, excluded, or lost to follow-up?
 2. How the main variables were measured?
 3. Confounding (false attribution of causality because 2 variables discovered to be associated actually are associated with a third factor)?
 4. Chance?
- Does the analysis accounting for the clustered nature of the data (patients nested within physician) increase your confidence in the findings?*
- What are the main study findings?
- How comparable is the study sample to similar patients in your practice? What is your judgment about the transportability of the findings?
- How might this study change your practice?
- How does the concept of Guided Care fit with emerging models of the patient-centered medical home (<http://www.pcpcc.net/>)?
- Would the availability of Guided Care (www.guidedcare.org) make you more interested in managing complex older patients in your practice?
- If Guided Care proves to be a robust model of care, what further work would need to be done to make it a sustainable part of health care in your country?
- What important researchable questions remain?

*Hint: The answer is yes. See: Zyzanski SJ, Flocke SA, Dickinson LM. On the nature and analysis of clustered data. *Ann Fam Med*. 2004;2(3):199-200. <http://www.annfammed.org/cgi/content/full/2/3/199>.

References

1. Stange KC, Miller WL, McLellan LA, et al. *Annals Journal Club: It's time to get RADICAL.* *Ann Fam Med*. 2006;4(3):196-197. <http://annfammed.org/cgi/content/full/4/3/196>.