

Guiding and evaluating implementation strategies targeting improving interprofessional collaborative practices in health and social care professionals in the community regarding fall prevention.

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This study aims to provide 1) insight into underlying structures that develop within local inter-professional networks and 2) provide practical guidance to improve and evaluate interprofessional collaborative practices.

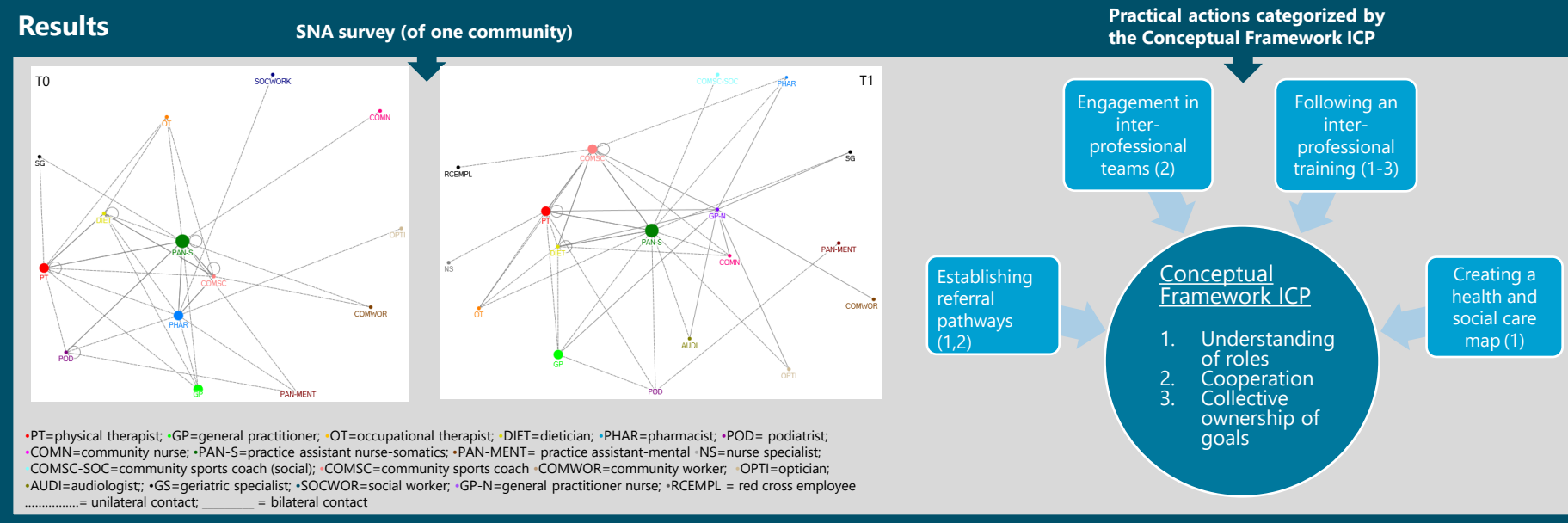
Background

Providing multifactorial fall prevention practices (FPP) for community-dwelling older adults requires *many health and social care services*. Therefore, *interprofessional collaborative practices* (ICP) among health and social care professionals in communities is essential.¹

Method

- Interprofessional teams** consisting of health and social care professionals were established in three communities in The Netherlands.
- Implementation strategies** focusing on improving ICP were selected, and four practical actions were formulated to improve ICP.
- Social Network Analysis (SNA) survey** was distributed in the teams at baseline (T0) and after six months (T1) to monitor development of interprofessional networks.

- Evaluation of the process of improving ICP** i.e. the application of the practical actions, was guided by the Conceptual Framework ICP.² Analysis was performed by categorizing the practical actions into the Conceptual Framework ICP.



Discussion and conclusion

Findings suggest that *physical therapists* and *primary care* and *community nurses* play a central role in local FPP. Analyzing the practical actions with the Conceptual Framework ICP shows that '*cooperation*', '*understanding of roles*' and '*collective ownership of goals*' are of utmost importance. This helps to further guide to process of improving ICP among health and social care professionals within communities.



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