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Adapting Guidelines for Implementation: A Process Evaluation of Five Canadian Case Studies

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Introduction: Groups interested in evidence-based practice are highly focused on guideline use as a means to fulfil this aim. Development of guidelines is not practical for local groups therefore effort has turned to adapting already developed guidelines. Under the auspices of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, groups were supported (using a methodology and facilitation) to work through their adaptation process. To understand the process these groups engage in, the resources, expertise and the timeframe required, they participated in a 'natural experiment' allowing the research team to study them as they proceeded with guideline adaptation. Orientation and use of the ADAPTE methodology was a starting point with facilitation and support as required. The Knowledge to Action cycle (Graham et al 2006) served as our guiding framework.

Method: Organizational Case Series Design, process evaluation of 5 groups adapting already developed guidelines. The evaluation was formative i.e. improvements addressed as the process unfolded not waiting until the end. Purposeful sampling created a representative mix (topics areas, disciplines involved, scope of guideline adaptation e.g. local to pan-Canadian). Data collection included: audit (meeting minutes, teleconferences, contact with Partnership team etc.), trajectory tool, focus groups, field notes, and participant observation.

Results: Each group used the 24-step ADAPTE methodology. The tools and resources provided the basic road-map but more was required. A new 'Call to Action' phase was added as well as combination and simplification of certain steps and additional tools developed. Substantial facilitation was involved including library science, logistic and project management support. Timeframe taken was \geq 18 months. Data (quantitative and qualitative) will be presented reflecting the cases' process.

Summary: This process study highlights the complexity and challenges with guideline adaptation and aspects that may need to be supported through either internal or external facilitation. Recommendations and lessons learned will be presented.