

National Guideline Implementability Meeting

Friday April 27, 2012
8:30 am to 3:00 pm
The University Club of Toronto



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

It is imperative that we improve, or seek new ways of implementing guidelines. A promising approach is to enhance guideline “implementability”: characteristics of guidelines to facilitate their implementation by users. We developed a framework of implementability tools, and identified and described tools within Canadian and international guidelines. Further research is needed to develop, harmonize and operationalize the implementability concept. Planning is best done through knowledge exchange with guideline developers, implementers and researchers.

Objectives

1. Share information about our guideline implementability research
2. Review current guideline implementability practices and tools
3. Solicit input on the identification and development of implementability tools
4. Prioritize goals for ongoing guideline implementability practice and research

Methods

We identified Canadian guidelines containing or accompanied by content or tools reflecting implementability framework elements of Resource Implications, Implementation and Evaluation to describe their format and content. Guideline developers, implementers and researchers were then assembled for a one-day nominal group meeting to issue recommendations for research on implementability tools reflecting the domains of interest.

Results

Participants: A total of 42 individuals participated in the meeting, including 10 researchers, 19 guideline developers and 10 guideline implementers. Practice: The beginnings of a framework for naming and defining tools emerged according to target user and purpose, further organized according to explicit advice versus considerations to prompt reflection and decision-making. A broad range of phenotypes were considered to be tools or tool delivery mechanisms. Different types of tools within each of the three domains were considered essential. Some thought that generic tools may be more transferrable while others believed that contextual factors may require tailored tools. Tool development should be integrated with guideline development and overall implementation planning to achieve particular quality improvement objectives, and therefore appropriately recognized and funded. Development of a tool inventory requires examination of tools located on organizational web sites. Tools should be evaluated prior to broad use to avoid users being inundated. Research: Participants recommended evaluating the impact of tools according to attributes (content/format/location/generic versus specific), delivery mechanism, intended user, and purpose. Tools should be evaluated prior to broad implementation while others could be made available on organization web sites and prospectively evaluated and refined based on user feedback. Overarching issues that require attention include responsibility for tool development, and how to prioritize for which guidelines tools should be developed.

Implications

This begins to establish a common understanding and language around the concept of implementability tools, and while not yet fully clear, serves as the basis upon which to build ongoing communication and collaboration. This will enable us and others to continue doing research that is more targeted and more meaningful to further develop these concepts, and operationalize and evaluate tools. Participants appreciated the interaction with other developers and implementers, and said they gained knowledge that will be further shared with, and benefit their organizations. This may lead to the development of policies, protocols or tools by guideline developers and implementers, and the formation of partnerships for ongoing research.

Nominal Group Meeting Agenda

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380 University Avenue, Main Lounge

Timing	Activity
AM 8:30	<i>Breakfast</i>
9:00	Welcome and presentation of background information Presentation: Guideline implementability – completed and ongoing research
9:20	Small group discussion #1: What is an implementability tool? Refine and expand definitions of implementability domains and elements, identify existing tools, suggest additional tools, prioritize tools and explore needs/differences across groups
10:00	Small groups report findings (additional tools, priorities, differences), full group discussion
10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:45	Participant presentations George Browman , BC Cancer Agency, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (resource implications tool) Richard Merchant , Royal Columbian Hospital, University of British Columbia (resource implications tool) Alice Cheng , Credit Valley Hospital, St. Michael's Hospital and Carolyn Gall Casey , Canadian Diabetes Association (implementation tools) Irmajean Bajnok and Monique Lloyd , Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (evaluation tools) Alexandra Papaioannou , Hamilton Health Sciences/McMaster University, Osteoporosis Canada (guideline developer perspective) Carol Digout , Atlantic Provinces Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Network (guideline implementer perspective)
11:45	Full group discussion of implications
PM 12:00	<i>Working lunch</i> Small group discussion #2: Implementability tool research priorities Breakout groups discuss current practice and challenges associated with developing implementability tools, and identify priorities for ongoing research on tool development
1:00	Small groups report recommendations for ongoing research, full group discussion
2:00	Full group discussion of ongoing communication/collaboration Explore interest in, and communication/collaboration mechanisms for ongoing research
2:30	Next steps
3:00	Adjournment

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Potential Research Questions

No.	Objective/Question	Approach	Data Collection	Analysis
1	Conduct a more comprehensive search for all tools in the domains of interest (how comprehensive do we need to be; how do we find them?)	MEDLINE search, internet search, wide consultation with experts	Literature review, content analysis, interviews	Qualitative
2	Should all guidelines offer implementability tools?	Engage individuals with different perspectives to identify and describe relevance by type of guideline	Focus groups	Qualitative
3	What is an implementability tool (how can we identify and describe them)?	Solicit input to define minimum parameters for format, content	Delphi or modified Delphi	Quantitative
4	What are the attributes of a good implementability tool?	Given minimum parameters, develop and evaluate tools for the development and appraisal of tools	Develop, pilot test and evaluate the inter-rater reliability, etc.	Quantitative
5	Which domains/elements are of highest priority to different stakeholders, and why?	Engage individuals with different perspectives to prioritize tools	Focus groups followed by self-completed survey	Qualitative, quantitative
6	How do needs/tools differ across the implementation spectrum (awareness, acceptance, adoption, adherence) and/or Knowledge to Action cycle?	Identify and describe relevance by type of guideline	Focus groups, followed by self-completed survey	Qualitative, quantitative
7	How do/would different users (clinicians, managers, policy makers) interpret/apply different implementability tools?	What are the cognitive and potential behavioural impact implementability tools?	Interviews	Qualitative
8	What is the behavioural impact of implementability tools	Do implementability tools support guideline use?	Before-after or time series study	Quantitative
9	How is guideline implementability complementary to other strategies for implementing guidelines?	Is implementability an independent or complementary to other strategies?	Randomized controlled trial	Quantitative, qualitative
10	What tools/services are needed to support developer development, and implementer implementation of implementability tools?	Identify and describe resource and practice implications of developing and promoting use of implementability tools	Interviews or focus groups or ethnographic study	Qualitative

