

Insights on Impact of Health Behavior on Implementation Practice and Scientific Research

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Short Communication

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INTRODUCTION

As research defines new treatments to improve patient survival and health, an increasing challenge is determining how to translate these discoveries into routine clinical practise to benefit patients and society. Implementing change and improvement in healthcare is multifaceted, but many healthcare stakeholders must change their behavior. Healthcare providers, leaders, and administrators, as well as payers, patients, and other professionals, all play important roles and take action when it comes to translating evidence into care. The purpose of this paper is to explain how theories of human behaviour change play an important role in the science of implementation and quality improvement. We begin with a brief review of the intellectual roots of implementation science and quality improvement, followed by a discussion of how behaviour change theories and principles can inform both the goals and challenges of applying behaviour change theories. We use the terms "implementation science" to refer to the underlying science of studying changes in healthcare delivery, and "implementation practise and research" to refer to the work being done more broadly.

DESCRIPTION

Importantly, the TDF is intended to aid in the comprehension of behaviours from any potential adopter of behaviour change, including patients, providers, or other healthcare stakeholders^[1-3], both individually and as teams. The TDF, as a consolidated determinants framework, provides critical information about factors that are thought to influence the success or failure of implementation or behaviour change. In 2012, the TDF was refined. The TDF revisions were intended to disperse some of the constructs in the original domains while also adding new constructs. For example, the former domain "Motivation and Goals" was split into separate domains "Intentions" and "Goals." An important issue in implementation research^[4] is determining which approaches, strategies, or interventions to employ when attempting to implement a new evidence-based practise.

In the absence of determinants frameworks, which catalogue the factors that have been empirically or theoretically demonstrated to affect whether implementation is successful in a specific instance, the usual practice has been to simply make the best educated guess possible, often without systematic effort to understand the underlying reasons why that practice is not already being used. Attempting to understand the underlying or root causes of gaps in practice, then using a theory to select, design, and tailor implementation interventions or strategies, has been argued as a way of achieving more effective implementation more frequently, as well as to build and tailor implementation interventions or strategies. Frameworks^[5] for determinants are one aspect of the design process. Frameworks describing implementation strategies are also included, which can be linked to key determinants that have been assessed as influential in a specific implementation problem using logic models or other approaches. To aid implementation planning, the COM-B model and related approaches combine key determinants with prescribed interventions.

CONCLUSION

Implementation strategies, as described in the Expert Recommendations for Implementation Change (ERIC) project or the Effective Practice Organization Collaboration, are frequently fairly abstract and lack the detail needed to deploy them operationally. One advantage of behaviour change techniques is that they primarily operate at the individual level, or internally to the individual, providing the opportunity to specify and design strategies that can address specific, individual-level barriers using behavioural techniques. The clear link to a theoretical basis for its effect, or its mechanism of action, is a key advantage of behaviour change techniques. This link has been strengthened through systematic reviews and research into the evidence from

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completed empirical studies, which describe empirically derived links between behaviour change techniques and the theoretical mechanisms underlying them. Recent efforts have concentrated on developing a web-based tool to assist intervention designers in developing theoretically based interventions to support behaviour change, including the implementation of evidence-based practices. This begins to address a core issue in implementation research, how to find robust and accessible links between the determinants rated as high priority and strategies for dealing with these determinants, particularly negative ones.

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