

The ALIVE National Centre IMPLEMENTATION BRIEF



IMPLEMENTATION & TRANSLATION

Implementation Briefs are developed by the Implementation and Translation Network within The ALIVE National Centre to illustrate implementation models that bring together pathways, strategies and theories for at-scale delivery of mental health care

IMPLEMENTATION BRIEF AIMS

- Change the narrative - we no longer accept that evidence takes 17 years to be put into practice.
- Develop the “Scalability Pathways” - researchers, policy-makers, service sectors and commissioners will have clarity on the interlinked components for scalability.
- Increase knowledge using experiential-evidence to develop “Strategies for Implementation” - service planners, managers and the workforces delivering care, know what’s needed to embed a new model/s or technology into service settings.
- Develop “Short Guides” - show what’s needed for optimisation of a model of care / technology / innovation.

*** As a collective effort, we combine research evidence, practice wisdom, implementation science and lived-experience perspectives to shift intractable problems and improve outcomes in mental health care.**

We anticipate people with lived-experience will be members of each of the following groups.

Policy maker

How do we identify the ingredients of scalability for what we know works? What adaptations are needed, what are the contextual factors that intersect and what human, technical, economic, social resourcing is needed?

Researcher

How do we translate what worked in a research context to consumers, policy makers, service planners and workforce to adopt and sustain the implementation of findings?

Service Planner/
Workforce

How do we identify what works easily and have clear pathways for implementing in services and develop strategies needed to embed research evidence?

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HOW MIGHT IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE HELP TO CLOSE THE TRANSLATIONAL GAPS?

The field of implementation science has evolved in response to the gap between the development of evidence-based practices and their uptake in routine care (Bauer et al., 2015). This gap has been said to be as much as 17 years for the uptake of evidence-based practices and it is suggested that up to 50% never become incorporated into routine health care delivery (Bauer et al 2015). **Implementation science examines the factors, conditions and contexts, that impact on the embedding of research, policies, guidelines into practice and health care systems.** Nilsen (2020) proposes a taxonomy to describe the various theoretical approaches as show in Figure 1. Understanding implementation is central to translation research being scaled, or scalable and for achieving at-scale delivery of mental health care.

Approaches used in implementation science	1. Process models describe the steps to be followed and/or guide the process of translating research/evidence into routine practice. Descriptive.	1. Process Model Example Knowledge to Action Cycle
	2. Frameworks and theories. Frameworks include descriptive categories to explain the structure or system that account for the phenomenon of interest , and therefore serve the purpose of understanding the factor that influence implementation outcomes	2. Determinant Frameworks Usually define domains and determinants that may either be barriers or enablers to implementation that impact the outcomes of implementation
	A theory in implementation science often includes an explanation of casual mechanisms related to implementation	3. Classical Theories Those which originate from other fields such as psychology which are used to explain or understand implementation
	3. Evaluation frameworks for defining features of implementation success and barriers	4. Implementation Theories In contrast have been developed specifically from the field of implementation science to explain aspects of implementation, for example Absorptive Capacity from Zahra and George (2002)
		5. Evaluation Framework Example Glasgow et al's., (1999 cited in (Nilsen, 2020)) RE-AIM

Figure 1 Three aims of the use of theoretical approaches in implementation science and five categories of theories, models, and frameworks (Nilsen, 2020, p. 11)

REFERENCES

- Bauer, M. S., Damschroder, L., Hagedorn, H., Smith, J., & Kilbourne, A. M. (2015). An introduction to Implementation science for the non-specialist. *BMC psychology*, 3(1), 1-12. <https://bmcpyschology.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s4-0359-015-0089-9>
- Nilsen, P. (2020). Overview of theories, models and frameworks in implementation science. In *Handbook on implementation science* (pp. 8-31). Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://econpapers.repec.org/bookchap/elqeebook/18688.htm>