



Workshop 20 – 2018 Nordic Implementation Conference

Utilising Implementation Theory for Practice

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Presentation 1: Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Teasing out clinical interventions and implementation interventions (Ann Catrine Eldh)

Background

While many clinical interventions have a proven value, effective strategies to implement such interventions are still necessary. At times, there is ambiguity as to what is the clinical intervention and what is the implementation intervention, both in terms of planning and evaluating intervention studies.

Project aim

This project represents three process evaluations by means of recent pilot studies building on the Promoting Action on Research Implementation in Health Services' framework; all studies employed a similar implementation intervention to promote informal and formal health care leaders to facilitate staff to implement evidence-based practice guidelines in daily practice. The aim of this presentation is to illustrate what is the clinical interventions and implementation interventions, respectively, and explore the grey area in between.

Project methods

A secondary analysis is performed on the qualitative and quantitative data sources from the three studies: interviews, observations and data from electronic patient records from an implementation intervention for stroke rehabilitation in primary care; interviews, observations and data from electronic patient records from an implementation intervention for incontinence care in hip surgery, and; interviews and observations from a implementation intervention of clinical practice guidelines for oral care for frail older people.

Project results

Considering implementation theories, frameworks and models, and reporting guidelines helped clarify the clinical interventions and implementation interventions, respectively. In particular, a two-by-two was promoting guidance with regards to what aspects to focus, in this case in terms of leadership as a context and facilitating factor; this contributed to a clearer picture of what data were needed to inform the process and outcomes, respectively, and to the understanding of what worked, for whom, and in what context - or not - and with what outcomes.

Preliminary or final conclusions/discussion

There is an increasing recognition among scholars and health care stakeholder of the potential complexity in studies on clinical interventions and implementation interventions, as well as those that employ a hybrid design of both clinical and implementation interventions. While attention to the study design, the use of theory, and an adoption of reporting guidelines can potentially aid in distinguishing certain aspects, a single answer to all issues of hybrid studies may be unachievable.



Presentation 2: The use of implementation science as a frame for innovative project design (Helle Høgh)

Background

The Quality Implementation Framework is a relatively new implementation framework developed by Meyers, Durlak and Wandersman in 2012. In 2017, the framework was translated into a Danish version, with the aspiration to inspire and improve the work of regional and community implementation practitioners.

Project aim

How can intermediary organisations and project managers benefit from implementation science in their design of innovative projects? The presentation will try and answer that question using the Quality Implementation Framework (QIF) as a case.

Project methods

QIF represents an adaptive approach to implementation and thus supports the developmental dynamics of innovation. The framework is characterised by 14 critical steps in a 4-phase implementation cycle. It emphasises that the quality of implementation is very much formed by the steps, that are critical to investigate and prepare, before the actual implementation can take place. Thus 10 of the 14 steps are connected to pre-implementation issues and a set of key questions that must be answered, in each implementation context, in order to implement with high quality.

Project results

Currently QIF is introduced and used as a frame and guide for design of innovative projects at Centre for effective innovation in social services aka Metodecentret in Denmark.

Preliminary or final conclusions/discussion

QIF is used as a framework for generating a 'developmental' implementation approach, where feedback and continuous quality improvements are key to the process.