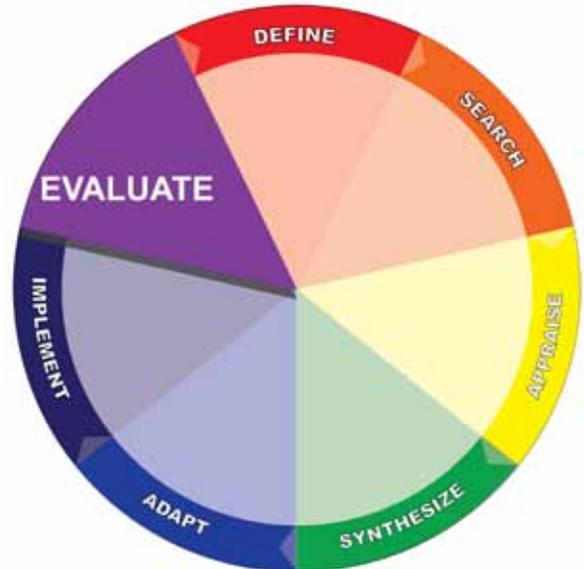




Webcast:

Part seven: Evaluate

Step seven is about evaluation. You have now been through the whole cycle, from clearly defining a question and searching for the information, critically appraising the findings, synthesizing diverse evidence, adapting it to the local situation and making decisions about implementing or stopping program implementation using all the population and financial factors. Now we're at the stage of evaluating that decision. There are two primary issues to think about: what are the outcomes that you need to think about that would be indicators for whether or not this intervention has been effective? And before you actually implement a decision, you need to think about collecting some baseline information.



There are many public health situations where we've implemented a program and don't think carefully about the outcome indicators until a couple of years later. At that point, we have lost the ability to gather baseline information to see if there have been any changes. It is important to focus on two different types of outcome indicators. First of all, you need to consider the behaviour of the health care professionals. Can you assess whether or not the people who are working in the intervention are actually being true to the intervention as it's been developed? Are they taking shortcuts? Are they making it less intensive? Are they not comfortable doing parts of the intervention, and so they're leaving parts out or not doing it to the level of expectations? This is sometimes called fidelity. In other words, is the intervention being delivered the way it was developed to be delivered, or has it been watered down because of lack of resources? This first type of outcome indicator involves evaluating whether or not the health care practitioners' behaviour has changed and if they're really being true to the intervention.

The second type of outcome indicator is population outcomes. What indicators are there that you could say that the intervention has resulted in a difference for the population in your region? Sometimes it's easier to collect this population level data; first you consider the baseline and then you compare it to outcome indicators a few years after an intervention. On the other hand, depending on the program you're putting into place, sometimes that kind of information is impossible to get. If you don't have some idea of behaviour change and there's no change in population in a few years, how do you know that there's no change because the intervention isn't working, or there's no change because in fact the intervention has not been provided in the way it was designed?

On our Registry of Methods and Tools, you will find a number of different tools that will help you with program evaluations. These tools will help you plan for evaluation and conduct the evaluation. I'm hoping you'll have a look at these tools further on our website, www.nccmt.ca, and explore these kinds of tools on the Registry of Methods and Tools.

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This is the final webcast. We have now been through the entire cycle. If you want additional information, there's an [online module called Evidence-Informed Decision Making](#) that explains the whole process. This is a self-paced module that takes about five or six hours to go through individually. We also know that groups are working through this online module together to help their learning and to discuss some of the situations. There is also a [module about the critical appraisal of actual intervention studies](#), and a [module about systematic reviews](#). There are lots of other ways to increase your depth of knowledge about these interventions. Thank you.

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