

# SUPPORT tool for using research evidence in policy implementation

## A summary of

Fretheim, A., Munabi-Babigumira, S., Oxman, A.D., Lavis, J.N., & Lewin, S. (2009). SUPPORT Tools for Evidence-informed Policymaking in health 6: Using research evidence to address how an option will be implemented. *Health Research Policy and Systems*, 7(Suppl 1):S6. doi: 10.1186/1478-4505-7-S1-S6.



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## Categories:

Tool, Implement, Organizational capacity and management, Organizational change, Policy development

**Date posted:**  
November 26, 2012

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August 25, 2017

## Tool

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## Relevance For Public Health

This SUPPORT tool can be used to design implementation strategies for evidence-based policies, with implementation strategies involving clients, communities, practitioners, organizations and public health systems.

## Description

Developed by the SUPporting POLicy relevant Reviews and Trials (SUPPORT) Project, this [SUPPORT tool](#) provides questions to help decision-makers implement an evidence-based policy in practice. The five questions guide the process of identifying barriers to implementation, and then tailoring the implementation strategies to address identified barriers and facilitators.

Implementing evidence-based policies can be a challenging process. This tool supports the [Implement](#) step in Evidence-Informed Public Health (see NCCMT's [online learning module](#) to learn more about the Implement step). Other resources in the Registry of Methods and Tools that could assist users in working through this SUPPORT tool include tools for:

- [Identifying barriers to change](#)
- [Implementation planning](#)
- [Change management](#)

This tool is part of a series to support the use of research evidence in policy making. The SUPPORT series includes 18 tools that address four broad areas:

- developing organizational support for evidence-informed policy making
- identifying needs for research evidence for policy making
- finding and assessing research
- moving from research to action

To access the full suite of tools, which are available through the Health Research Policy and Systems journal, [click here](#). To access the tools in a book format, available from the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services, [click here](#).

## Implementing the Tool

### Who is Involved?

The SUPPORT tools are targeted to policy-makers and those who support policy-makers in assessing evidence for decision making.

### Steps for Using Tool

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These summaries are written by the NCCMT to condense and to provide an overview of the resources listed in the [Registry of Methods and Tools](#) and to give suggestions for their use in a public health context. For more information on individual methods and tools included in the review, please consult the authors/developers of the original resources.

This SUPPORT tool encourages clear implementation planning by investigating the following areas:

- What are potential barriers to the successful implementation of a new policy?
- What strategies should be considered to facilitate behavioural changes among health care recipients and citizens?
- What strategies should be considered to facilitate behavioural changes among health care professionals?
- What strategies should be considered to facilitate organizational changes?
- What strategies should be considered to facilitate systems changes?

Each section includes additional resources, examples and case studies.

## Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

### Evaluation

Information not available

### Validity

Not applicable

### Reliability

Not applicable

### Methodological Rating



Not applicable

## Tool Development

### Developers

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Susan Munabi-Babigumira  
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John N. Lavis  
Simon Lewin

### Method of Development

The SUPPORT Tools were designed to help people use the best available research evidence in their decision making. The SUPporting POLicy relevant Reviews and Trials (SUPPORT) Project is an international collaboration funded by the European Commission's 6th Framework. There are 18 tools in total, including tools that address the following topics:

- using research to clarify a problem
- using research to frame options for a policy issue
- preparing policy briefs
- using policy dialogues in decision making

The tools are freely available through the *Health Research Policy and Systems* journal ([click here](#)).

### Release Date

2009

### Contact Person

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## Resources

<b>Title of Primary Resource</b>	SUPPORT Tools for Evidence-informed Policymaking in health 6: Using research evidence to address how an option will be implemented
<b>File Attachment</b>	None
<b>Web-link</b>	<a href="http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content/7/S1/S6">http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content/7/S1/S6</a>
<b>Reference</b>	Fretheim, A., Munabi-Babigumira, S., Oxman, A.D., Lavis, J.N., & Lewin, S. (2009). SUPPORT Tools for Evidence-informed Policymaking in health 6: Using research evidence to address how an option will be implemented. <i>Health Research Policy and Systems</i> , 7(Suppl 1):S6. doi: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1186/1478-4505-7-S1-S6">10.1186/1478-4505-7-S1-S6</a> .
<b>Type of Material</b>	Journal article
<b>Format</b>	Periodical
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<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Conditions for Use</b>	Copyright © 2009 Fretheim et al; licensee BioMed Central Ltd.

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