The rapid-learning health care system model

A summary of

How to cite this NCCMT summary:

Categories:
Method, Implement, Communication, Knowledge dissemination, Knowledge exchange

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Relevance For Public Health
The rapid-learning health care system model from scanning to dissemination can be applied in a public health context. For example, having a model like this available during the SARS epidemic might have better guided public health officials, clinical and hospital staff, researchers, and other concerned citizens and stakeholders.

Description
The model was developed as a means of accelerating health system transformation, recognizing that research evidence needs to be applied in real-time while at the same time drawing on practice-based knowledge. The model's approach is based on bidirectional learning, where evidence informs practice and practice informs evidence.

The model is described in six distinct phases that are displayed in a learning cycle and are inherently iterative. In each phase, research can assist health system learning.

The six phases are as follows:

- Scanning and Surveillance: Problem identification and characterization
- Design: Blending of research evidence with frontline workers’ experience
- Implement: Multifaceted strategy
- Evaluation: Predefined, with timely feedback
- Adjustment: Allows for refinements to be made using evidence
- Dissemination: Including both internal and external stakeholders

Implementing the Tool

Who is Involved?
Different individuals and expertise might be needed depending on the phase. For example, subject matter experts, information technologists, change management expertise and research methodologists might be useful at different phases of the process.

Steps for Using Tool
The six phases of the rapid-learning health system begin at the external level and progressively move to the internal learning environment. Otherwise, the six phases are introduced sequentially and iteratively, in the following order:

1. Scanning and surveillance
2. Design
3. Implement
4. Evaluation
5. Adjustment
6. Dissemination

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.
Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

Evaluation
Information not available

Validity
Not applicable

Reliability
Not applicable

Methodological Rating
N/A Not applicable

Tool Development

Developers
Sarah Greene
Robert Reid
Eric Larson

Method of Development
The model is based on the conceptual strategy to accelerate health care transformation published by Etheredge (2007). The model incorporates the emerging disciplines of health information technology and bioinformatics with the application of evidence in real-time and use of practice-based experience and feedback to enhance generalizability of health system change.

Release Date
2012

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Resources

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