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- ✍ [3.2 Develop the product/service](#)
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✍ **3.4 Set up an implementation plan**

What?

An implementation plan or a strategic plan is an outline of the steps a project team has to cover in order to achieve a shared objective. If the goal is the "what," the implementation plan is the "how." It is usually a combination of strategy, process, and action, and includes budget, timeline and personnel among others.

Why?

An implementation plan offers a step-by-step guide to the implementation of any project and in the process transforms abstract concepts within the plan into reality. Important to note is that you do not "let go" of the innovation process when the product/service is developed because you need to pair it with a thorough implementation strategy to allow for its adoption and sustained use.

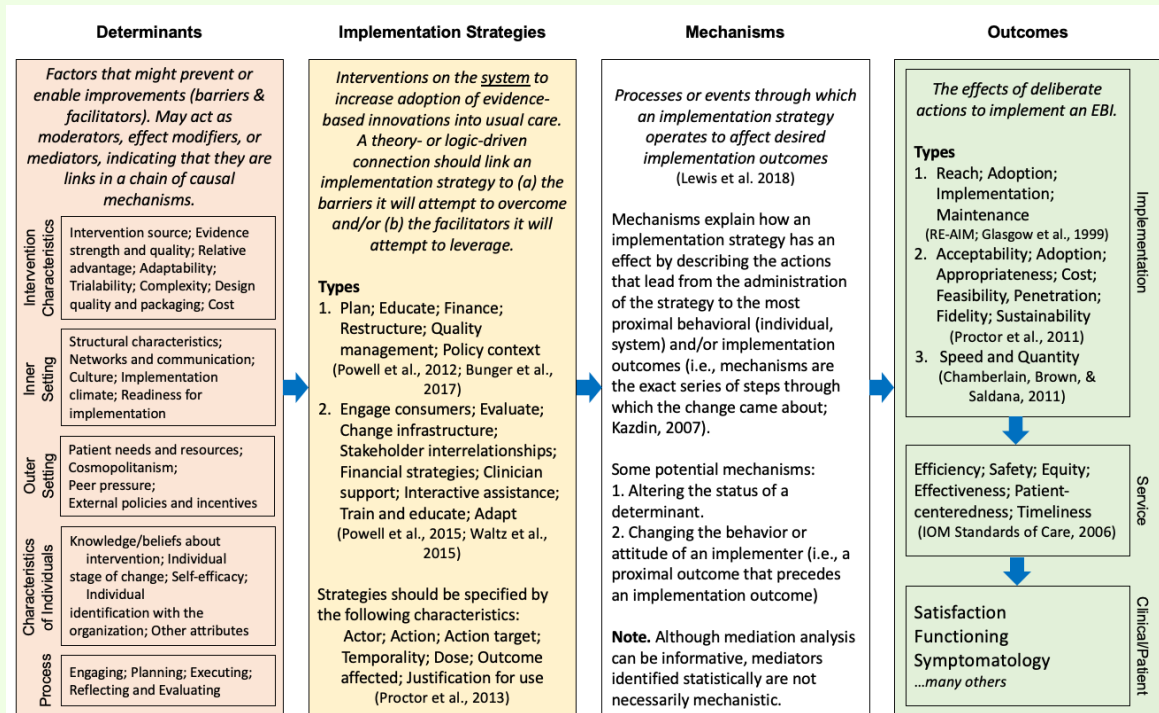
How?

Implementation planning is a time-consuming process and therefore you need to ensure that you do not begin planning too early or too late. For business projects, the moment the contract is signed and approvals from multiple stakeholders are received, the implementation planning can start. From an innovation perspective, this planning needs to start at the beginning of the innovation process and is continually updated throughout the development process to cater for any changes and to allow for a seamless implementation phase.

The Implementation Research Logic Model (IRLM)

We introduce IRLM that can aid researchers and implementation partners in the planning and execution of practice change initiatives. It is a conceptually grounded organizational tool that can improve the adoption of evidence-based interventions (EBI) in healthcare delivery systems and reproducibility of implementation research while offering additional utility for the field. This is because of its ability to relay and map out in detail what is most important during implementation.

The model presents following components; **determinants, implementation strategies, mechanisms** and **outcomes** and the relationships between these.



Smith, J.D., Li, D., & Rafferty, M.R. (2020)

IRLM Quick Reference Guide

Determinants

In tool 1.4 you have analysed the context in relation to the challenge/problem definition and through tool 2.2 you have mapped possible facilitators and barriers (determinants) for implementation. You might rate the relative strength of the determinants on a scale from -2 (strong negative impact) through 0 (neutral or mixed influence) to +2 (strong positive impact) to create a hierarchy on what to address primarily. Hopefully your product/service has been developed with this in mind, in order to increase uptake of your innovation.

Implementation Strategies

Besides adapting your solution so that it fits into existing context, you probably also need a strategy to alter some contextual elements, for example through quality management, education, financing etc. Use your gained insights and knowledge about users and stakeholders through previous tools, such as 1.2 and 1.3, so that interventions fits their culture, organisations, structures etc.

Mechanisms

Mechanisms are the processes and events through which the implementation strategy operates to affect desired implementation outcomes, also referred to as road map planning. A Roadmap planning breaks down big picture goals into measurable project phases, tasks, and subtasks. Each category is clearly defined with its own deadlines and resource allocations. Tasks and subtasks are assigned to team members who will complete and approve each one.

Outcomes

Through tool 2.3 you have created a Theory of Change with desired outputs (short term qualitative results), outcomes (positive change for individual users) and your ultimate impact (how your solution improves systems, organisations and society at large). Your implementation strategy

should include a plan on how to measure and follow up on these goals. Decide on what indicators to measure and how to do so (data collection, interviews, surveys, observations, tests etc). Set a time frame on when and how often to measure. It is also important that the plan includes a possibility to capture possible non-intended consequences as a result of the implementation of the intervention.

Additional specification options

Specify any additional documents that you feel are important for your specific study or project e.g. scheduling, task due dates, communication tools and risk assessment plan among others.

Resources/Sources:

<https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13012-020-01041-8>

<https://www.wrike.com/blog/implementation-plan-ultimate-guide/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22898128/>



**3.3 Decide on healthcare
integration strategies**

4.1 Facilitate implementation

