



## Method – Implementation strategies

🔗 [Method – Monitor and evaluate](#)

### What do we mean by implementation strategies?

Implementation strategies are methods and/or techniques used to enhance the uptake, adoption, implementation and sustainability of practice or intervention.

There exist several different implementation strategies and they vary in complexity. Implementation strategies can target a range of stakeholders such as patients, community, policy, providers etc. Implementation strategies used in health can include educational programmes, new material, meetings, training session etc.

### Why is having an implementation strategy important?

If you want to implement interventions/evidence effectively into a setting, it is necessary to plan, select and tailor an implementation strategy fit for the context you wish to implement in.

Indeed, some interventions succeed accidentally, or by luck, and it is understandable to wishfully believe that this will be the case for you as well. But this is a dangerous approach to take and often leaves a negative impact on for example the success of the implementation, the internal team morality as well as the sense of trust from your stakeholders and end users.

Most of us want to work in an environment with a sense of direction and where the future is somehow predictable and understandable, and successful planning for the most suitable and strategic implementation methods can limit the risks associated with unpredictability. For example, if the intervention method is not clearly adapted to the context or people it is intended to serve, there may be a risk of low motivation to engage with, or welcome, your intervention by the intended end users.

## How do you choose and tailor an implementation strategy?

When considering how to implement an intervention, policy or evidence, it is important to consider the local context (using the local evidence that was gathered as part the sub-tool “assessing the local context”

[https://kise.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/teams/GRP\\_ResearchtoAction/\\_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BC55F388C-A0CA-4968-BFD2-3B845ACFFCC0%7D&file=ENVIORNMENT-%20Assessing%20the%20local%20context.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true](https://kise.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/teams/GRP_ResearchtoAction/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BC55F388C-A0CA-4968-BFD2-3B845ACFFCC0%7D&file=ENVIORNMENT-%20Assessing%20the%20local%20context.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true) ) and the identified barriers and facilitators (from asses and manage barriers and facilitators” [https://kise.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/teams/GRP\\_ResearchtoAction/\\_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B2D23CD87-4C42-4247-9373-B7A418CF34EE%7D&file=SKILL%20assess%20and%20manage%20barriers%20and%20facilitators.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true](https://kise.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/teams/GRP_ResearchtoAction/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B2D23CD87-4C42-4247-9373-B7A418CF34EE%7D&file=SKILL%20assess%20and%20manage%20barriers%20and%20facilitators.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true)).

There is a lot of different strategies out there and just because you used one before and it worked, it doesn't mean it will work well this time. It is best to have a planned process to select the strategy or strategies. You can choose more than one implementation strategy to addresses the barriers and facilitators, and tailor them to your local context.

There are different methods for selecting and tailoring implementation strategies, including brainstorming, consultation with staff, rating and more advanced methods such as concept mapping, intervention mapping and conjoint analysis. **Once again, involving relevant stakeholders is of uttermost importance.** Selecting strategies should be built on agreement with stakeholders on the importance of different barriers, jointly analysing which strategies are available to address the most important barriers and selecting the most feasible strategies that are likely to have the greatest impact within the specific context.

If it's the first time an intervention is being implemented it can be good to do a small-scale implementation, a pilot project, and then evaluate it before pursuing the larger scope. This provides an opportunity to see how well the intervention works, evaluate and change necessary implementation strategies going forward. If successful, then implement at a larger scale.

We have gathered different tools that can help you select an implementation strategy and help you understand different steps in the implementation process.

### **TOOL: [Eight toolkits related to Dissemination and Implementation](#)**

By: Washington University in St. Louis

Eight toolkits related to dissemination and implementation, including aim, barriers, outcomes, study design, organizational constructs, frameworks, guidelines and checklists. Look specifically at tool number 3 on barriers.

☑ **TOOL: [TDR Implementation Research Toolkit](#)**

By: TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

A toolkit helped to guide those conducting implementation research (IR). It includes chapters on study design, project plan, identify barriers to implementation, collect, analyse and present research information, develop dissemination plan, and monitor and evaluate research project

☑ **TOOL: [Implementing health systems guidance: A workbook to support the contextualization of recommendations at the national or subnational level](#)**

By: John N. Lavis, MD PhD, Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McMaster University; McMaster Health Forum, McMaster University; Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis, McMaster University; Department of Political Science, McMaster University

Provides questions for the users to consider when developing national or subnational guidance or policy informed by global guidance. Includes a workbook with nine steps which addresses: problem, framing, implementation, context, monitoring and evaluation, and policy recommendations and strategies. We recommend looking at step 3 at this stage, but the workbook should be done as a whole, and we recommend this toolkit in other sub-tools for example "assess the local context".

☑ **TOOL: [Knowledge to Action Framework](#)**

By: RNAO

A comprehensive toolkit including two major parts; The knowledge creation process and the action cycle that includes seven steps that moves knowledge into practice. This toolkit shows the process of knowledge translation and give tips and tools on how to move knowledge to action. The action cycle consists of the following steps (look closer at step 4):

1. identifying the problem or issue that you want to change, selecting knowledge to address the problem/issue, and determining the gap between knowledge and practice
2. adapting the knowledge to your context
3. assessing barriers and facilitators to knowledge use
4. selecting the right implementation strategies to make changes in your setting
5. monitoring knowledge use
6. evaluating outcomes
7. sustaining the change/use of knowledge

🔗 **TOOL: Dissemination & Implementation Models in Health Research and Practice**

An interactive tool designed to help researchers and practitioners: develop a 'logic model' or diagram for their research or practice question. Includes the following modules: select the dissemination and implementation D&I model, combine multiple D&I models; adapt the D&I model to the study or practice context; use the D&I model throughout the research or practice process; and find existing measures to assess the key constructs of the D&I model selected.