

**Abstract Title:** Defining and measuring 'implementation success' in health service research: a case study of implementation of the Clinical Pathway for the Screening, Assessment and Management of Anxiety and Depression in Adult Cancer Patients (ADAPT CP).

Authors HL Shepherd<sup>1</sup>, L Geerligs<sup>1</sup>, J Shaw<sup>1</sup>, N Rankin<sup>2</sup>, M Price<sup>1</sup>, L Masya<sup>1</sup>, H Dhillon<sup>1</sup>, J Coll<sup>1</sup>, A Girgis<sup>3</sup>, T Hack<sup>4</sup>, B Kelly<sup>5</sup>, M Lovell<sup>6</sup>, T Lockett<sup>7</sup>, P Grimison<sup>8</sup>, P Beale<sup>9</sup>, R Viney<sup>7</sup>, T Shaw<sup>1</sup>, A Pearce<sup>7</sup>, P Butow<sup>1</sup> and the ADAPT Program Group

#### *Affiliations*

<sup>1</sup> *The University of Sydney, Camperdown, Australia*

<sup>2</sup> *Cancer Council NSW, Woolloomooloo, Australia*

<sup>3</sup> *Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, NSW, Australia*

<sup>4</sup> *University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada*

<sup>5</sup> *University of Newcastle, Newcastle, NSW Australia*

<sup>6</sup> *HammondCare, North Sydney, NSW Australia*

<sup>7</sup> *University of Technology, Sydney, NSW Australia*

<sup>8</sup> *Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, Camperdown, Australia*

<sup>9</sup> *Sydney Local Health District, NSW Australia*

#### **Background**

Evidence-based care is associated with improved outcomes, but such interventions are not always successfully implemented in real-world settings. Defining success markers that facilitate empirical measurement is crucial to ensure results inform ongoing implementation research. We describe the processes involved in defining and measuring outcomes of implementation success.

#### **Methods**

Using a current cluster randomised trial comparing the effectiveness of implementation strategies to influence adherence to the ADAPT CP as a case study, we conducted a literature review of available and relevant theories, frameworks and measures and used a consensus methodology involving national and international experts to identify definitions and markers of success.

#### **Results**

Our process of defining success was theoretically grounded and informed by both the Proctor framework of implementation outcomes, and the Standards for Reporting Implementation Studies (STaRI) guidelines. Success was defined both in terms of the implementation and the intervention and established clearly defined and measurable criteria, with respect to the ADAPT CP, intervention components, implementation strategies, or a combination of the three.

#### **Conclusions**

Defining and operationalizing success in a real-world implementation creates challenges and complexities. This study required clear differentiation between the three concepts underlying the implementation, the ADAPT CP, intervention components and implementation strategies. Clarity of how outcomes will be defined and measured, based on a strong theoretical framework is crucial to meaningful measurement and outcomes that can be generalized to wider implementation research.