

Partnership Research: A Practical Design for Evaluation of a Natural Experiment

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Outline

1. Partnership research
2. DIAMOND Initiative
3. DIAMOND Study
4. Challenges and lessons



What is the Problem?

- Need for more evidence-based practice
- Inadequate implementation + inadequate evidence
- “Practical Clinical Trials – designed to meet the needs of decision makers”
 - Tunis, Stryer, Clancy - JAMA 2003



Partnership Research

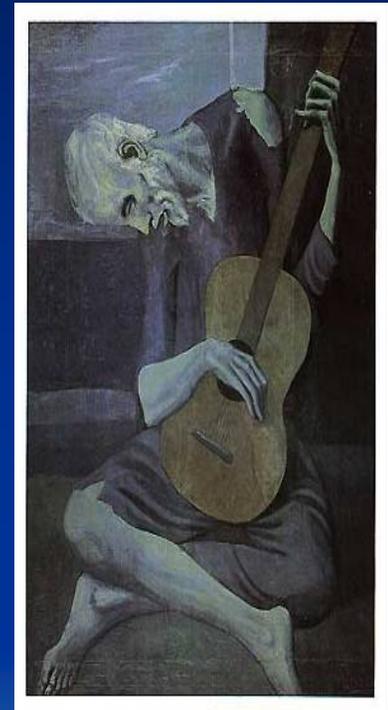
A type of practical clinical trial where each step is done in partnership:

- **Development of research questions**
- **Focus on context, implementation, and dissemination issues**
- **Ongoing interactions during study**
- **Spread and use of lessons**



Major Depression

- **Common - high cost & disability**
- **Mainly treated in primary care**
- **Usual care minimally effective**
- **RCTs prove it can be improved:**
 - **Collaborative care model**
- **Problem is reimbursement**



Natural Experiment

DIAMOND Initiative

“Depression Improvement Across Minnesota: Offering a New Direction”

- All payers agree to new payment system
- Clinics agree to new care approach
- Coordinated by ICSI as convenor, coordinator, trainer, and facilitator of evaluation and improvement



Care Management Program

- Initial evaluation + monitoring with PHQ9
- Registry and proactive follow-up
- Treatment intensification
- Relapse prevention plan
- Care manager (on-site) to educate, coordinate, and follow closely
- Psychiatrist supervision/consult
- Measurement, reporting, QI



DIAMOND Implementation

- 5 sequences of clinics implement every 6 months over 2 years by 28 medical groups & 95 clinic sites (550 FTE of PCPs)
- Required PHQ9 use and result reports at 0, 6, and 12 months (shared review)
- Vision – redesign of primary care and payment for chronic conditions



But Leaders Wanted to Know More

- Everyone – will depression improve more?
- Payers/Purchasers – effect on costs/util.?
- Purchasers – effect on worker productivity?
- Care leaders – how did care change and how can it be most effectively changed?
- Policy makers – what does it cost to do this?



DIAMOND Study

- Developed as Initiative developed
- Goal – answer leader questions
- Methods developed collaboratively
- R01 proposal to NIMH 3 mo. after Initiative Steering Committee established
- Funded as Seq #1 began training in 9/07 for implementation in 3/08.



An Initiative and a Study

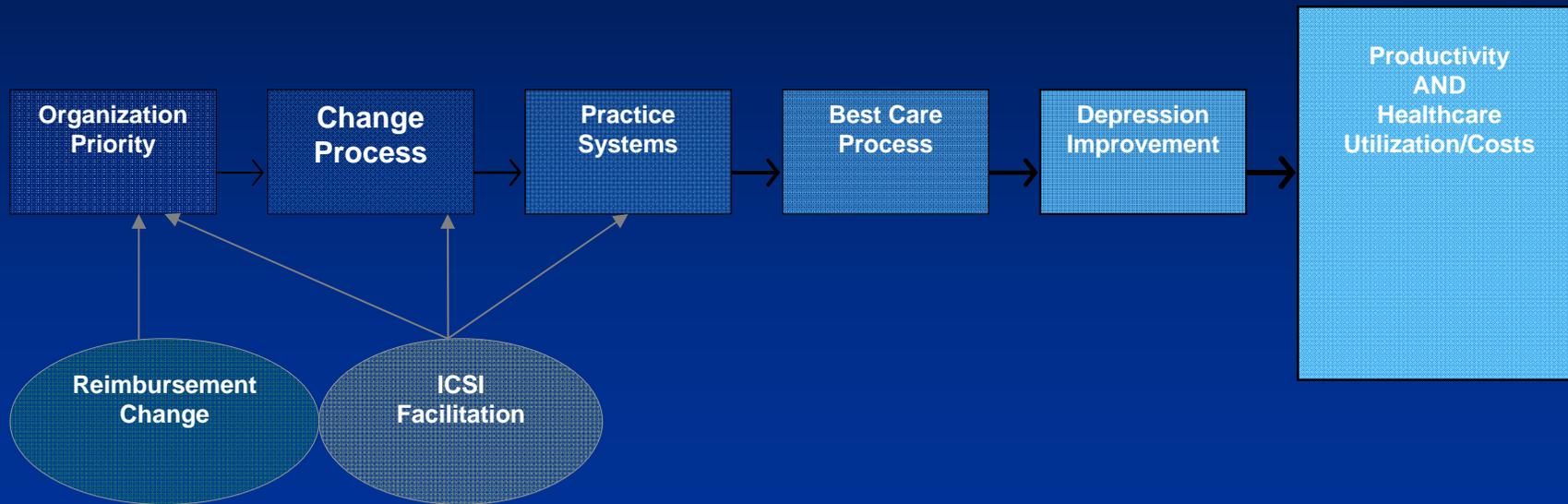


DIAMOND Study Proposal

Specific Aims:

1. Test the effects on best care process use
2. Test the effects on changes in depression symptoms, healthcare costs, & productivity
3. Identify organizational factors affecting implementation
4. Describe costs, reach, adverse outcomes, adoption, implementation, and spread
(RE-AIM)





The Implementation Chain

Methods

- **Design: Staggered implementation, multiple baseline**
- **Measures:**
 - Patient surveys at 1 & 6 mos. about care received, severity, QOL, satisfaction, and productivity
 - Claims data on utilization/costs of care
 - Clinic leader surveys of priority, change capability, and care systems
 - Plan, clinic, and ICSI costs of setting up this approach



Study Successes

- Data collection instruments & processes
- IRB and legal concerns
- Patient identification & enrollment
- Supportive participation from payers & medical groups
- Study & Initiative coordination



Study Challenges

- 20% budget cut
- Payer participation
- Unavailable subjects
 - Carve-outs
 - Non-participating payers
- Reaching enough agreeable patients
- Occasional patient complaints
- Low clinic activation rates
- Potential loss of participating clinics



This Initiative & Study Partnership May be Transformative

For depressed patients, for care providers, and for research



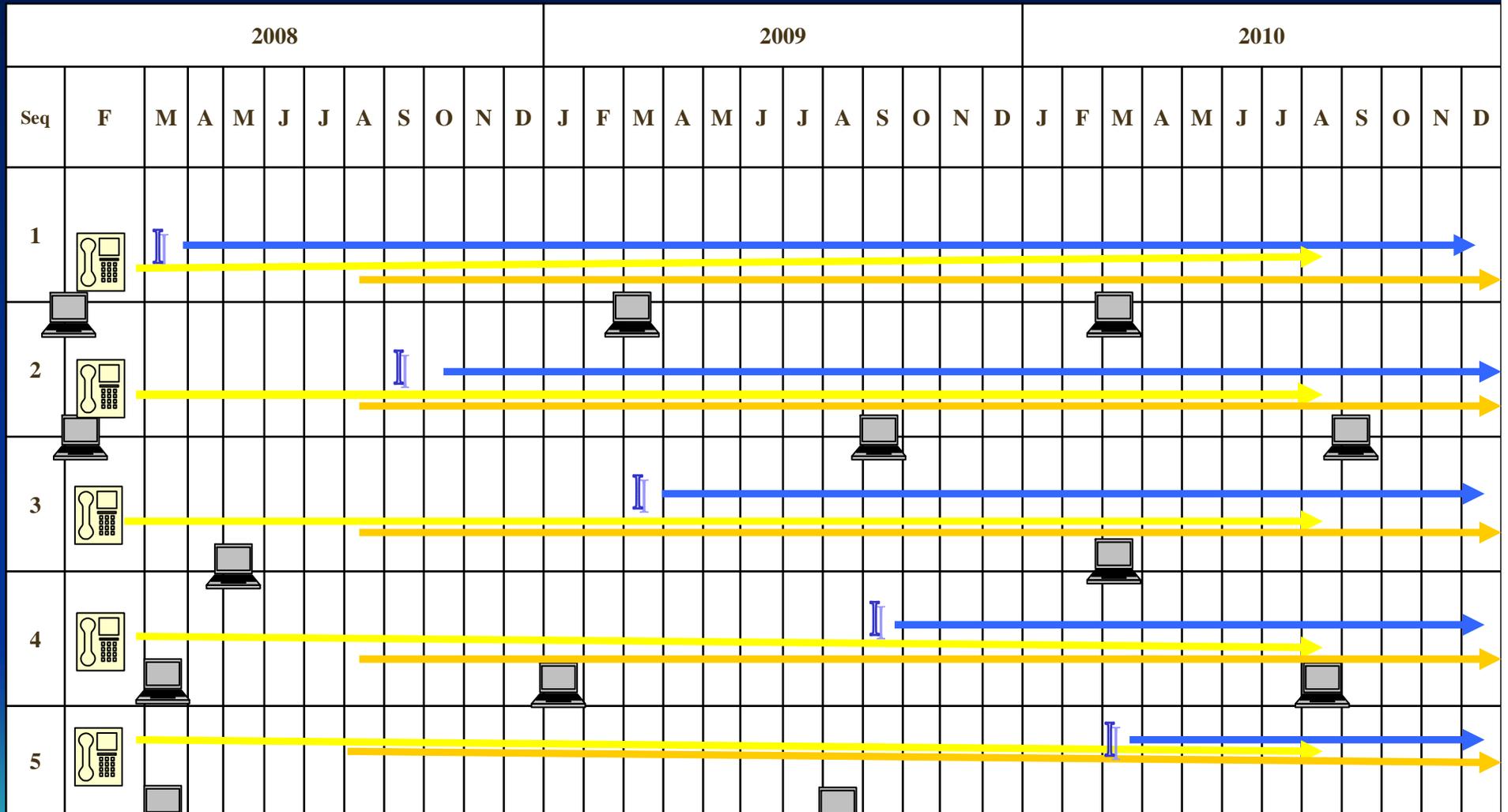
From this



To this



Patient & Medical Group Surveys



Key

I = Implementation



Phone = Patient survey



Computer = Medical group survey