



Scale-up and Spread of Evidence-Based Implementation Programs within VA

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Background

- The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is a large integrated healthcare delivery system
- New programs, directives, guidelines and other innovations emerge continuously
- QUERI (*Quality Enhancement Research Initiative*) and other research-based (or informed) programs endeavor to implement (or facilitate implementation) of the innovations
- Success in local and regional implementation does not lead directly to national implementation

Local vs. national implementation

- Intensive facilitation, technical assistance
- Formative evaluation, ongoing monitoring and feedback
- Hawthorne effect
- Trained, specialized (exclusive) intervention / care staff
- Site (leadership) commitment, support; staff enthusiasm
- “He/she is a study patient”

vs.

- National directive, expectation, performance monitoring
- Established evidence base, proof of feasibility, value
- Role models, opinion leaders

QUERI Four-Phase Implementation Research Framework

<u>Phase</u>	<u>Study Type</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>
Pre-trial	Conceptual	Conceptual design of implementation program and underlying design (logic) model from theory, prior empirical research
Phase 1	Pilot / Formative	Pilot test, assess feasibility, formative evaluation and refinement, develop intervention/evaluation protocols
Phase 2	Efficacy	Small-scale rigorous trial in controlled settings with ongoing intervention support; internal validity
Phase 3	Effectiveness	Large-scale rigorous trial under routine conditions in varied settings; external validity
Phase 4	Monitoring	Ongoing monitoring and feedback

Example: Depression collaborative care

- Evidence-based care model
 - Care manager telephone assessment and follow-up
 - Algorithm-based treatment plan established by PCP
 - Care manager supervision DCM by a mental health specialist
 - Consultation between specialist and PCP
- *National Dissemination Plan:*
 - national clinical practice guidelines, performance measures, informatics support
 - social marketing
 - supportive national policy initiative (MH-PC integration)

Smith JL et al. Developing a national dissemination plan for collaborative care for depression: QUERI Series. *Implement Sci.* 2008 Dec 31;3:59.