



Poster # 11

Title of poster: Collaborative knowledge synthesis: How multiple perspectives shaped a project along the way

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Abstract

The purpose of this poster is to describe how collaboration with knowledge users shaped the direction of a knowledge synthesis research study. The aim of the knowledge synthesis project was to produce evidence-based recommendations for the selection and utilization of patient- and family-reported outcomes (PROMs) and patient- and family-reported experiences (PREMs) for seriously ill elderly patients and their families in acute care settings. The knowledge synthesis was informed by the initial stages of the Knowledge-to-Action framework and included close collaboration with an intentionally selected and diverse team. Team members were invited from local and national communities of researchers, content experts, well-connected knowledge users, decision makers, and trainees. These team members represent a variety of areas including government, local health authority, medicine, nursing, psychometrics, and library sciences. Knowledge users partnered in developing the aims and objectives of the project, and collaborated in shaping the knowledge synthesis processes along the way. The team members were engaged on an ongoing basis to identify gaps, refine synthesis questions, discuss emerging results, and prepare for knowledge translation. The strength of having a diverse team approach is that research is shaped so that research outcomes become relevant to multiple populations, including various user communities. One example of multiple perspectives within the research team is that clinician team members valued the clinical usability while researcher team members emphasized the importance of ensuring reliability and validity of the instruments. A flow chart illustrates the collective team's contributions throughout the research study. Overall, the poster demonstrates how knowledge synthesis processes may need to be adapted on an ongoing basis to ensure that the results are meaningful to researchers and knowledge users who have different disciplinary and professional backgrounds.