

Webinar: An introduction – Monitoring Outcomes and Measuring Success

AH-TRIP stands for Allied Health Translating Research into Practice. AH TRIP aims to give allied health practitioners education, tools and resources to bring about practice change in health care settings.

Evaluation in the form of monitoring outcomes and measuring success is an important part of any TRIP project to understand if a difference was made. Throughout this webinar I'm including some top tips from local researchers, implementers and our TRIP champions about how they approach evaluation. All agree and stressed the point that although listed as the last step of TRIP- evaluation should be considered from the beginning of any change process.

Some key points to consider

- What is the purpose of evaluating?
- Who is the audience of the evaluation?
e.g. are you justifying ongoing funding you have a very different audience compared to your evaluation for a small cycle of change to inform local improvement on a ward

Your evaluation will depend on the time available, resources and the practice change you are implementing. Evaluation can be complex with multiple components. So our experts recommend seeking support from an experienced mentor and engaging the right people early.

Another point that was highlighted during evaluation discussions was that you may not have the time or capacity to evaluate everything -it's important that you think about evaluation pragmatically, to know what measures or outcomes a priority are to collect versus what can be left out.

At the end of your project you should know

- Whether your project made a difference?
- You might also want to understand why it did or did not make a difference.
- Were implementation strategies delivered as planned?
- Did the implementation strategies change practice?

During our discussions everyone agreed that - If you are not sure where to start with evaluation, go back to the problem and the aims of the project the 'understanding the problem' worksheet might help
How did you know there was a problem in the first place? Consider how will you know if you have made a difference?

As you work through the understanding the problem worksheet might help:

What measures will you use? Are these measures important to your audience?

What are the sources of this data? Is there routinely collected data that you can use such as clinical incidents or readmission rates, or will you have to collect some measures yourself?

How will you analyze the data? For example, there is no point collecting paper-based surveys or doing interviews if someone doesn't have time to enter and analyse the results

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Now this webinar may sound like more questions than answers, but evaluation is complex and it's important to start your project with the end in mind – we have a series of other evaluation resources that might help structure your thinking and will say it again get support from an experienced mentor if you are unsure or require support.

At the beginning of every evaluation

I know our
project works



No,
you don't



You say your program
works but why should I
believe you?



Because I have
evidence.



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