



Implementing evidence, guidelines, and tools

For system leaders who want to improve implementation

Improvement requires:

- Understanding the process and determinants of implementation, and
- Interventions to address it.

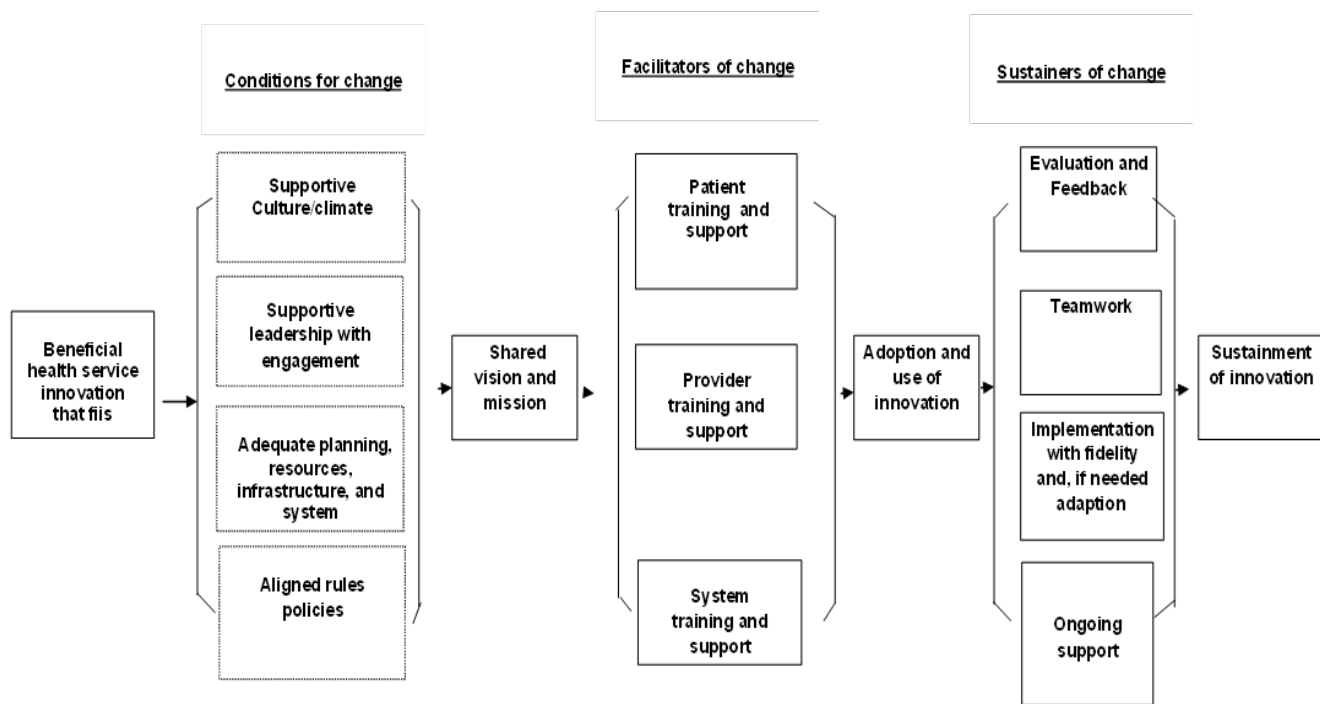
This brief provides key information that highlights the process, determinants, and interventions to support implementation. Full information about the methods of the review are available on request (in press at JAMA).

The process

A process is a series of steps that drive the outcomes of implementation.

Each step in the process is the potential target of an intervention and has factors that affect its success (called determinants).

The process for implementation has been defined by a scoping review of the determinants of sustainability¹. The process is depicted below.



Wiltsey Stirman, 2012. Implement Sci 7:17.

The determinants of outcomes

Determinants are the drivers of a successful process and outcomes.

They can be factors that cause outcomes (e.g. mediators) or factors that modify the chance of outcomes (e.g. moderators).

The determinants of implementation have been defined by qualitative and survey studies. The summary results of a secondary analysis of a meta-review focused on scoping reviews of determinants are shown below.¹

Meta-analyses and systematic reviews of determinants

	No exposure	Exposure	Absolute risk	Absolute risk with mediation	Relative risk	Strength of evidence
Determinants	NR	Innovation characteristics: • fit, • effectiveness, • ability to be modified and implemented with fidelity. System characteristics: • supportive culture and climate, • leadership • setting characteristics (e.g. structure, policies), • system change. Implementation processes: • planning, • engagement and relationship building, • shared decision making with stakeholders, • alignment and adaption of interventions, • integration of rules and policies, • training and education, • evaluation and feedback. Resources: • funding, • workforce, • champions, • funding, resources, and • stakeholder involvement.	NR	NR	NR	Low to moderate

NR: not reported

The interventions that improve outcomes

We found no systematic reviews or meta-analyses of interventions to improve system-level implementation².

Systematic review and meta-analysis evidence on interventions

	Baseline rate of delivery	Post-intervention rate of delivery	Absolute benefit	Relative benefit	Strength of evidence
Implementation interventions					Insufficient evidence

Interventions often called “implementation interventions” that address provider adherence to guidelines are discussed in a separate tool.

References

1. Sheridan SL, Jonas D, Pignone MP, et al. The determinants of Implementation: a secondary analysis of a meta-review (submitted). *JAMA*. 2026;
2. Sheridan SL, Jonas D, Guirguis-Blake G, et al. The effects of the process, determinants, and interventions of implementation and provider adherence on implementation and adherence outcomes: a meta-review (in press). *JAMA*. 2026;

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