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# Mapping the evidence on strategies to adapt and implement health systems guidelines and recommendations

A scoping review protocol

Prepared for Registration to Open Science Framework

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Mapping the evidence on strategies to adapt and implement health systems guidelines and recommendations

## Review title and timescale

**1 Review title:**  
Mapping the evidence on strategies to adapt and implement health systems guidelines and recommendations: A scoping review

**2 Anticipated or actual start date:**  
December 1, 2019

**3 Anticipated completion date:**  
November 30, 2020

**4 Stage of review at time of this submission:**

This review has not yet started

Review stage <i>(Please check all that apply)</i>	Started	Completed
Preliminary searches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Piloting of the study selection process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data extraction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Risk of bias (quality) assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data analysis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Provide any other relevant information about the stage of the review here: Not applicable

## Review team details

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**9 Organisational affiliation of the review**  
School of Nursing, Faculty of Health, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

## 10 Review team members and their organisational affiliations

Give the title, first name and last name of all members of the team working directly on the review. Give the organisational affiliations of each member of the review team.

First name	Last name	Credentials <i>e.g. MSc, PhD</i>	Role <i>e.g. PI, co-I</i>	Affiliation
Janet	Curran	PhD	PI	School of Nursing, Faculty of Health, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
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Melissa	Rothfus	PhD, MLIS	Librarian	W.K. Kellogg Health Science Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Helen	Wong	MSc	Project Manager	IWK Health Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

## 11 Funding sources/sponsors

World Health Organization

## 12 Conflicts of interest

The research team has no conflicts of interest to declare.

## Review methods

### 13 Review question(s):

What is the extent of the available evidence related to adapting and implementing health systems guidelines and recommendations:

- What are common strategies and approaches for adapting health systems guidelines and recommendations?
- What are the common strategies and approaches for implementing health systems guidelines and recommendations?
- What are the common reported outcomes or indicators of success to adaption and/or implementation of health systems guidelines and recommendations?
- What are the common reported barriers and facilitators to adaption and/or implementation of health systems guidelines and recommendations?

### 14 Literature Search:

An experienced librarian will search PubMed/MEDLINE, Embase, CINAHL, and Web of Science. A second experienced librarian will review the search strategy according to PRESS guidelines. The search will include both published and grey literature with no limits to date. However, only papers published in English will be included in the review. The tables of included studies in relevant systematic reviews will also be scanned to ensure that applicable studies are captured. We will also assess the reference list of included studies. Further, we will contact a broad range of key informants identified by our knowledge user for input to ensure the inclusion of all relevant studies.

Mapping the evidence on strategies to adapt and implement health systems guidelines and recommendations

<b>15 URL to search strategy:</b>	See Appendix A for our MEDLINE search strategy.
<b>16 Condition or domain being studied:</b>	The process/procedure and impact of adapting and/or implementing guidelines and recommendations within health systems.
<b>17 Participants/Population:</b>	All individuals or groups (e.g. communities, departments, etc.) targeted by health systems guidelines and recommendations.
<b>18 Intervention(s)/Exposure(s):</b>	Concepts relevant for this review include health systems guidance statements, guidelines and/or recommendations, adaptation and/or implementation strategies, adaptation and/or implementation frameworks, and adaptation and/or implementation barriers and facilitators.
<b>19 Comparator(s)/Control(s):</b>	N/A
<b>20 Types of study to be included initially:</b>	All study designs that meet the eligibility criteria will be included with the exception of systematic reviews. However, the tables of included studies for relevant systematic review topics will be scanned to ensure literature saturation.
<b>21 Context:</b>	All health systems (i.e. primary, secondary, tertiary) and socio-cultural contexts.
<b>22 Primary outcome(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies or approaches to support the adaptation and implementation of health systems guidelines and recommendations.</li> <li>• Evaluation outcomes of the strategies or approaches to support the adaptation and implementation of health systems guidelines and recommendations.</li> <li>• Implementation outcomes for health systems guidelines and recommendations, such as, acceptability, adoption, appropriateness, feasibility, fidelity, costs, coverage, scale-up, or sustainability.</li> </ul>
<b>23 Secondary outcome(s):</b>	N/A
<b>24 Data extraction (selection and coding):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Level 1 screening (title/abstract screening):</b> The review team will draft the eligibility criteria with input provided by the knowledge user. Two reviewers will pilot the drafted eligibility criteria on a random sample of 30 citations and/or until an inter-rater agreement of <math>\geq 80\%</math> is achieved. Using the finalized eligibility criteria, two independent reviewers will screen all titles/abstracts that result from the literature search. Disagreements between reviewers will be solved by consensus or a third party.</li> <li>• <b>Level 2 screening (full-text screening):</b> Two independent reviewers will screen the full-text articles of studies identified through Level 1 screening; disagreements will be resolved via consensus or a third party.</li> <li>• <b>Level 3 data extraction:</b> The team will develop a data extraction tool and coding book in collaboration with knowledge users and a broad range of relevant key informants. The tool will be pilot tested using three studies by two reviewers. Following data extraction tool refinement, two independent reviewers will complete data extraction for all the included studies. Disagreements between reviewers will be solved by consensus or a third party.</li> </ul>

## 25 Risk of bias (quality) assessment:

We will assess the quality of included studies using the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT), version 2018. Two independent reviewers will complete the quality assessment; disagreements will be resolved by consensus or by a third party.

## 26 Strategy for data synthesis:

Data synthesis will focus on summarizing the findings to help inform policy and systems decision-making in LMICs. We will include a descriptive summary table of all included studies. A thematic analysis will be conducted on qualitative data to characterize adaptation and implementation strategies, theories/framework, and implementation barriers and enablers. Implementation strategies will be classified as non-evidence- and evidence-based. Where applicable, the impact/effect of implementation strategies will also be categorized as null, positive, or negative. A meta-analysis will not be undertaken, which aligns with the practice of typical health-related scoping reviews. Our synthesis will aim to disentangle between adaptation and implementation.

## 27 Analysis of subgroups or subsets:

When amendable, findings will be summarized by subgroups, with special focus LMICs. We will also conduct subgroup analysis according to the WHO health systems building blocks.

## Review general information

### 28 Type of review

Select one of the following:

#### Review Type

Scoping review

Rapid review

Systematic review

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 29 Language

English

### 30 Country

No limitations

### 31 Other registration details

Not applicable

### 32 Reference and/or URL for published protocol

Not applicable

### 33 Dissemination plans:

Anticipated deliverables:

- Final report and 1-page summary of key findings for the World Health Organization
- Manuscripts of the protocol and completed review for submission to peer-reviewed journals
- Presentation or poster of findings at relevant conferences

Do you intend to publish the review on completion?

Yes

No

**34 Keywords**

Health system guidelines and recommendations; implementation and/or adaptation strategies; implementation outcomes; low- and middle-income countries; knowledge synthesis; social planning; health service administration; policy making; standards

**35 Details of any existing review of the same topic by the same authors.**

Not applicable

**36 Current review status**

Not yet started

**37 Any additional information:**

Not applicable

**38 Details of final report/publication(s):**

Not applicable (review has not yet started)

## Appendix A. Search Strategy for MEDLINE

Medline (Ovid)

12/10/2019

Search	Query	Results
1	Guideline Adherence/	30924
2	"Delivery of Health Care"/	87297
3	Guidelines as Topic/	38795
4	2 and 3	531
5	((("health system*" or "health care" or healthcare) adj3 (guideline* or recommendation* or standard* or policy or policies or requirement* or protocol* or pathway* or guidance)).kw,kf,tw.	16639
6	4 or 5	17133
7	(adhere* or adapt* or implement* or follow or integrat* or "use").tw,kw,kf.	4691309
8	6 and 7	8090
9	1 or 8	38687
10	("best practice*" or "promising practice*" or strateg* or support* or approach* or encourag* or foster* or advanc*).tw,kw,kf.	4332948
11	9 and 10	13125