



Innovation Center Webinar: Testing Reforms with Rigor and Speed

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The Challenge and Promise of Delivery System Research

- AHRQ has a long history of supporting research to determine the most effective forms of system design and improvement approaches. For example:
 - Awarded 16 Recovery Act-funded grants on delivery system research and the spread of evidence-based practices through delivery systems to:
 - Build the evidence base for large-scale delivery system transformation
 - Gain evidence on effects on wide range of outcomes
 - Develop infrastructure for further work in this area
 - Convened a meeting of delivery system grantees, leading federal officials and health service researchers to:
 - Advance the national agenda for delivery system research;
 - Identify key topics and methods deserving greater attention by researchers and funding agencies; and
 - Foster dialogue among delivery system researchers



Opportunities for Advancing Delivery System Research

- Encourage cutting-edge methodologies and research designs
 - Call for mixed-method research
 - Encourage use of diverse research designs
- Encourage research on implementation and practice
 - Increase support for process evaluations and periodic, iterative assessments of new and continuing demonstration projects
- Take steps to enhance uptake and spread of findings
 - Support greater involvement of patients, clinicians, managers and decisionmakers in planning and development of research
 - Focus research on best ways to solve problems of concern to stakeholders and that directly examine how dissemination and spread occur



Messages for Delivery System Researchers

- Increase focus on discovering *how* interventions operate in diverse settings, rather than seeking a “best intervention” or a “best organizational type” (Ask: “When does it work and how?” instead of “Does it work and what works best?”)
- Include measures of care outcomes for patients receiving care from multiple providers and measures of how multiple care providers interact to affect care of these complex patients
- Design research with dissemination in mind; for example, consider target audiences in developing research plans



Studying Complex Interventions in Complex Systems

- New and emerging methods may complement standard health service research evaluations
 - Non-linear modeling
 - Agent-based modeling
 - Mixed methods approaches and frameworks that combine both quantitative and qualitative methods



Understanding the Nature of Relationships to Understand Our Ability to Affect Change

Infrastructure for Maintaining Primary Care Transformation (IMPACT)

- Four cooperative grants by AHRQ to support model state-level initiatives to assist with primary care redesign and transformation
 - Primary care extension agents in small primary care practices who facilitate practice redesign
 - Statewide multi-stakeholder approach in four states: NM, NC, OK, PA
 - Each required to develop and implement dissemination plan to three additional states



Some Next Steps at AHRQ

- An electronic portal is being developed to support communication among ARRA delivery system grantees
- Issue briefs describing how ARRA grantee research results contribute to emerging findings on key delivery system issues
- The AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting in June will include a session: *Research on Implementing Delivery System Change*, featuring early findings from several projects