



# 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