

Conducting Integrated Care Research Using Clinical and Cost Outcomes

This worksheet is a place for you to jot down ideas for planning, designing, and carrying out a research study using retrospective, real-world data. You may be able to address only one or two steps but give it a try.

Assumption: literature review completed and rationale for study established

1. **Theoretical framework:** Is there an existing structure for organizing and understanding theoretical explanations and prior research for the mechanisms underlying the phenomenon you want to study?
2. **Research hypotheses:** What do you predict about the study's outcome(s)?
3. **Conceptual model:** Given the theoretical framework and research hypotheses, suggest a mechanistic model for the study.
4. **Research design:** Which research design from the quantitative approaches might be best for testing the research hypothesis(es)?
5. **Variables:** What are the specific clinical and costs outcomes of interest? What is the intervention and what other variables might be predicting the outcome(s)? Using retrospective data that is already available, which outcome and predictor variables are accessible and measurable?
6. **Patient populations:** Which populations should be included in the study? Is there a representative, accessible population available through retrospective selection?
7. **Statistical analyses:** What statistical methods might be appropriate for testing the research hypotheses?