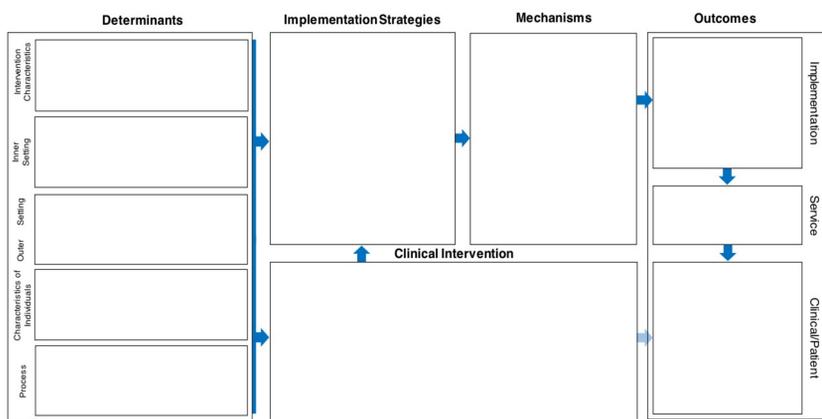


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Background: Although there is support for the integration of behavioral health services into primary care in multiple settings (Azrin, 2014; Butler et al., 2011), including academic medical centers, the complexity of the intervention and the setting can lead to significant barriers to implementation. Academic medical centers have multiple barriers including competing demands for time and multiple goals of faculty and trainees (e.g., research, clinical and training demands), multiple and often competing leadership and reporting structures, and heterogeneous clinic structures. Facilitation is an effective strategy for implementing complex interventions into complex medical settings (including integrated care) (Ritchie et al., 2020).

Purpose: To describe a facilitation approach to the integration of behavioral health into primary care clinics located in urban, rural, and suburban settings of an Academic Medical Center in the Southern United States. The facilitator was hired as a Director of Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) and along with the BHI Team, used pre-implementation strategies to begin the process of implementation.

This poster describes the pre-implementation activities used, how the team used the Implementation Research Logic Model (below) (Smith et al., 2020) to organize the implementation process and how outcomes will be tracked.



Results/Takeaways

Accurate lists of clinic personnel and structure is imperative. Much of the first few months was spent learning this structure and creating a contact list.

Systematically tracking implementation activities has allowed for to easy comparison of barriers and facilitators between and across sites. For example, I can compile all the barriers for a look at what I have found or sort them by site.

Developing the clinical intervention with experts AND with site input has helped with buy-in so far in the process

Outlining an implementation strategy has helped with defining roles and tasks.

Initial Pre-Implementation Activities using the Research Model to Guide Decisions (Ritchie et al., 2020)

1. Understand the Determinants in the outer and inner setting that will influence implementation
2. Identifying Stakeholders and the characteristics of these individuals that will influence implementation
3. Identifying the Clinical Intervention
4. Defining the Implementation Strategy

Understanding Determinants & Identifying Stakeholders

The Facilitator tracked time spent and activities via Redcap © over the first 6 months of their tenure. (Ritchie et al., 2020)

The facilitator interviewed the medical directors of each site and visited each site personally at least one time during the first 6 months.

The predominant activity during that time was in building a contact list, providing support/advice on workflow improvements and taking notes on the dynamics of the specific clinics

Redcap © allowed for easy tracking of activities and a repository for information collected.

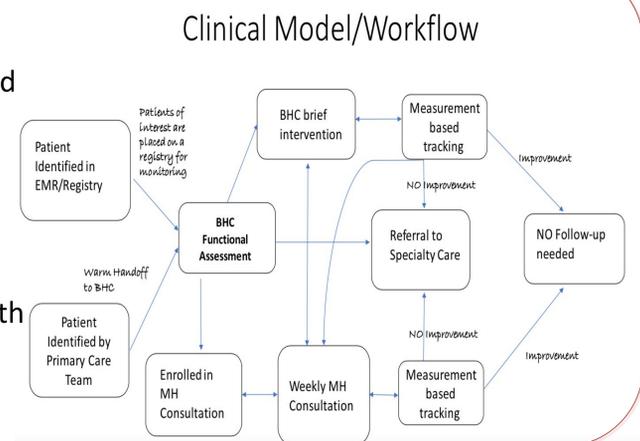
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| Interaction Type |
| Site(s) involved |
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| other person |
| Personnel Codes |
| Facilitation Activity Codes |
| Actions |
| Working Products and Outcomes Discussed |
| Products |
| Outcomes |
| Barriers to Implementation |
| Facilitators to Implementation |
| Notes |

Identifying the Clinical Intervention

Based on the research evidence, clinic needs and desires and the desires of UAMS IMSL leadership

Developed by a team including the facilitator, psychiatrist, PCP, and IMSL leadership.

Blended PCBH and CoCM model with the BHC serving as both a BHC and care manager within the system (Ramanuj et al., 2019; Reiter et al., 2018).



Defining the Implementation Strategy

Facilitator hired by leadership for the sole purpose of overseeing the integration of behavioral health in primary care-psychologist with experience in integrated care, research and implementation science

Facilitator is external in that they share leadership and training responsibilities across the clinical sites

Site Champions and implementation teams identified at each site. Use of an implementation planning guide for each site.



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