

What is knowledge translation and exchange?

Knowledge translation is the act of taking evidence and contextualising it so that practitioners and policymakers can use it to improve outcomes for clients. There are many ways to do this. Effective translation relies on the people creating knowledge and the people using knowledge, problem-solving and learning from each other.

This resource will help you, as a practitioner, to understand what knowledge translation and exchange is and how translated resources can support your practice. Other resources in this series include:

- [What is evidence implementation?](#)
- [What is evidence-informed practice?](#)
- [Evidence-based practice reflective questions for services](#)

It is “a dynamic and iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically sound application of knowledge”.

(Canadian Institutes of Health Research, 2016, n.p.)

Knowledge translation models

Briefly, there are four generally accepted ways to understand the knowledge translation process.

- 1. Science push:** knowledge moves in one direction from researcher to end user.
- 2. Demand pull:** research questions are generated by end users.
- 3. Dissemination:** tailored strategies are employed by researchers to increase the wuptake of findings.
- 4. Interaction:** cooperation between researchers and end users occurs across all stages. Researcher knowledge and end user knowledge are both used, and uptake of new knowledge or practices is dependent on the strength of the relationship between the researcher and the end user (Spalding et al., 2015).

Knowledge translation in action

Translating evidence involves positioning it where your audience will interact with it and communicating in a way that makes sense to the people you want to hear your message.

Finding the right way to communicate new knowledge is critical to success.



Common knowledge translation strategies include:

- information sessions (e.g. webinars)
- information resources (e.g. factsheets, infographics, podcasts, videos)
- research syntheses
- practice guides, frameworks
- training sessions, modules or programs
- workshops, working groups and communities of practice
- conference presentations.

How WorkUP can help

WorkUP supports you to connect with the latest research through our Resource Hub, where you can find webinars, articles, practice guides and more. We also share information through social media and via our newsletter. WorkUP can also work with you to design new solutions and support their implementation. If you would like to know more about WorkUP's knowledge translation work, or you have a question or a request, [connect with us](#) today.

“Essentially, is the process of translating knowledge in ways that facilitate the uptake of evidence in policy and practice.”

(Nancarrow, 2016, p. 4).

Key references and further reading

Canadian Institutes of Health Research. (2016). *Knowledge translation at CIHR – Definition*. <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/29418.html>

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