

Integrated knowledge translation (IKT) in health care: a scoping review

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CIHR New Investigator (2008-2013)

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Implementation Science

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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Integrated knowledge translation (IKT) in health care: a scoping review



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IKT benefits and challenges

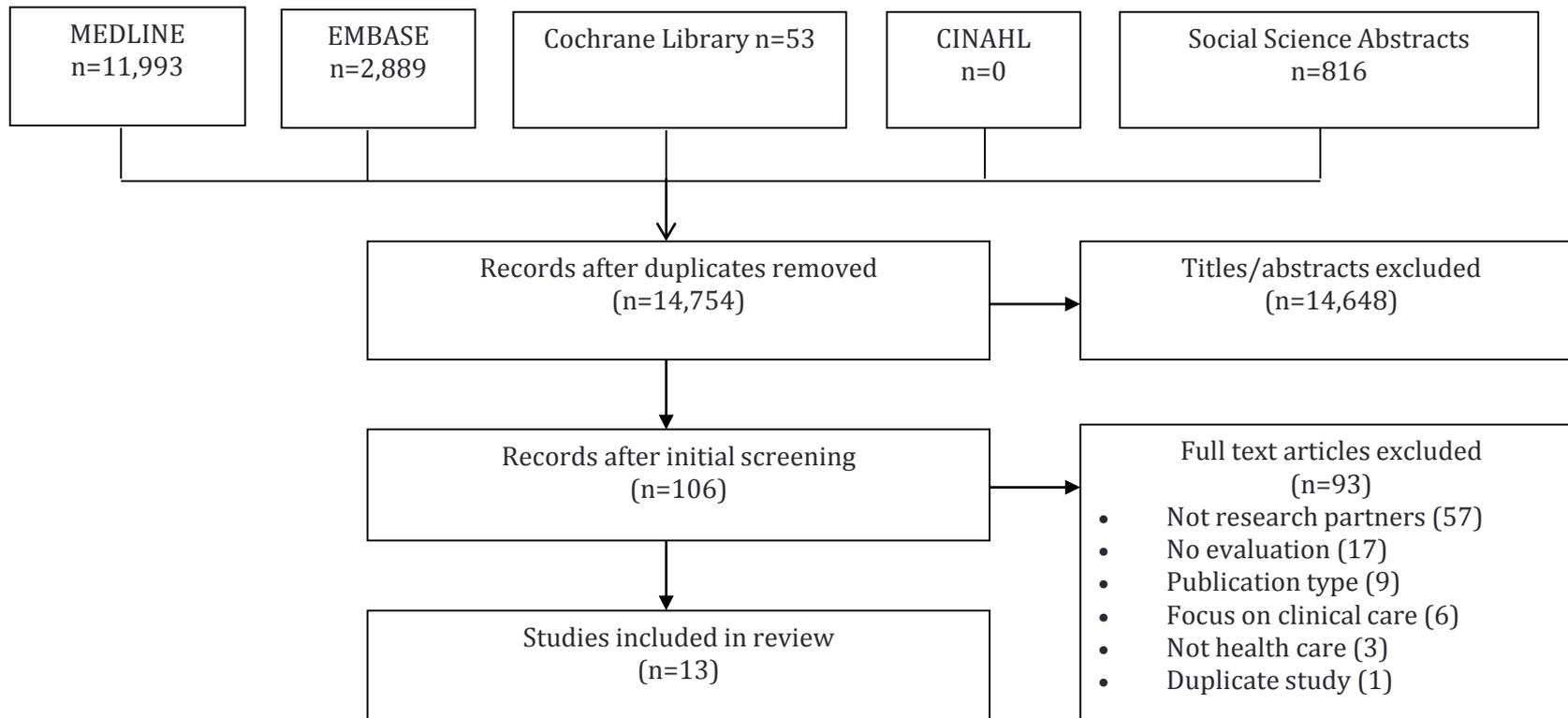
- “Ongoing relationship between researchers and decision-makers for the purpose of engaging in a mutually beneficial research project or program of research to support decision-making” (Kothari 2013)
 - Fosters trust, shared vision, collaboration; and improves communication, research use and clinical care
 - Not widely or routinely practiced; many determinants, mostly challenges; investment does not ensure success (CLAHRCs, ACCs)

Objectives

Conduct a scoping review to understand how to foster and achieve IKT among researchers and organizational/system-level decision-makers in the health care sector:

- Characterize the nature of research on IKT
- Describe IKT processes and outcomes that were evaluated
- Identify issues that warrant ongoing research

Eligible studies (2005 – 2014)



IKT characteristics (T1)

Descriptor (n/13)	IKT characteristics
Content (13)	broad array of objectives/health service issues
Delivery (9)	meetings/presentations (joint planning)
Timing (4)	monthly to annual meetings (i.e. 3 two-day events in 5 years)
Participants (8)	professional categories (#/type per IKT activity n/r)
Personnel (0)	n/r
Theory (0)	n/r

Determinants (T2)

- **Barriers (n=9)**
 - Differing needs and priorities (5)
 - Lack of skill in/understanding of IKT processes (5)
 - Attitudes about researchers or the value of research (4)
 - Unclear goals, roles and expectations (3) / Lack of incentives (3)
- **Enablers (n=15)**
 - Multiple and varied opportunities for interaction (4)
 - Strong leadership commitment, skill, experience (3)
 - Phased approach to develop shared language (2) / Clear and agreed upon goals, roles, expectations (2) / Researchers embedded in decision-maker setting/co-location (2) / Formalized branding, structures and processes (2)

Outcomes (T2)

- Positive/beneficial (n=12)
 - Developed capacity/skill for IKT (7)
 - Decision-makers grew to value research (4)
 - Developed an appreciation for collaboration (3) / Enhanced perceived relevance of the generated research (3)
- Unintended (n=7)
 - Decision-maker involvement varied across activities
 - Failure to overcome differences / Collaboration was temporary
 - Little to no research undertaken or generated / Not used for decision-making
 - Greater emphasis on publication than stakeholder engagement
 - Benefits only beginning to emerge

Influence of design on outcomes (T3)

- Time from initiation (8 studies, all 2+ years)
- Number of types of IKT activities (9 studies, range 1 to 8)
- Initiator (researcher, decision-maker)
- Funding (research grant, dedicated)
- Decision-maker involvement
 - Conceptualize/plan – 9 studies
 - Recruit/collect data – 2 studies
 - Interpret findings – 5 studies
 - Disseminate/implement – 7 studies
- Determinants (enablers, barriers)
- Outcomes (positive, mixed)

Summary

- Could not identify IKT characteristics associated with outcomes
 - Few studies evaluated IKT; meetings most common form of interaction
 - All studies reported barrier/enablers; one or more positive outcomes (varied)
 - Reporting of study design, IKT strategies and outcomes was incomplete/inconsistent
- Limitations
 - May not have identified all studies / IKT literature not consistently indexed
 - Stringent screening criteria limits transferrability
 - Few studies (n=13), details limited, heterogeneity precluded data pooling
- What strategies optimize interaction/outcomes for:
 - Research – research question, methods, conduct, dissemination
 - Partnership development – formation, becoming active, sustaining

Many thanks for your kind attention

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