MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit

The ADAPT Study: Adaptation of evidence-informed complex population health interventions for implementation and/or re-evaluation in new contexts

Participant Information

We would like to invite you to take part in a Delphi consensus exercise. If you agree, we will ask your opinion via an online survey on the content of proposed guidance to support the adaptation of evidence-informed complex population health interventions for implementation and/or re-evaluation in new contexts.

The ADAPT Study

Complex population-health interventions that are effective in one context may not be effective elsewhere, and may even be harmful. As such, an intervention may require adaptation to ensure it fits with a new context. To date there is no overarching guidance to help researchers to adapt and evaluate interventions in new contexts, and no criteria to support research funders or journals assess proposed or reported adaptations or evaluation. Further, there is limited instruction for policy-makers and practitioners to decide if evidence-informed interventions are appropriate to their context, or if adaptation and further evaluation is needed. Our study will provide guidance to these communities to support the adaptation, implementation and/or re-evaluation of complex population health interventions in new contexts.

The ADAPT study is a collaboration between Cardiff University, the MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit of the University of Glasgow, Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, the University of Stirling and the University of Sheffield. The study is led by Dr Graham Moore and Dr Rhiannon Evans of Cardiff University, and funded by the MRC/NIHR Methodology Research Programme from 2018 to 2020 (MR/R013357/1).

Your involvement

Your knowledge of adaptation of population health interventions will be a valuable contribution towards developing the ADAPT guidance. If you agree to participate, we will ask you in an online survey:

- To rate items that may be included in guidance for adapting population health interventions in Round One of the survey;
- To discuss your Round One answers with other participants in Round Two in an online discussion that will be available for a week; and
- To use the information from Round Two to revise your original Round One answers in Round Three.

Each round should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. You will have approximately 7 days to complete each round. We estimate your total anticipated participation time in this study will be about 2 hours over 6 weeks.

The survey

The survey will be conducted using the RAND Corporation's ExpertLens system, on an encrypted server. On completion of each round of the survey, a summary of the anonymized data will be securely exported to both the University of Glasgow and Cardiff University server networks for analysis by the research team. The survey will be password protected. The survey data will be stored according to University of Cardiff guidelines for 10 years following completion of the study, and then destroyed. The findings of the study will be disseminated via conference presentations and a peer-reviewed, open-access journal article. We will use the information you provide for research purposes only, in accordance with GDPR policy.

Confidentiality

We will not disclose your identity or information that would identify you to anyone outside of the project without your permission. We will protect the confidentiality of all your responses and discussion comments. Confidentiality will be respected subject to legal constraints and professional guidelines. Your responses and discussion comments will be identified by a username, rather than your given name or your email. We will destroy all information that identifies you at the end of the study. The de-identified information we collect as part of this survey may be shared with others for research purposes only. We shall make every effort to prevent breaches of confidence, such as interception of data sent via the internet or identification of respondents from occupational details. We shall use secure electronic systems to store data in accordance with data and collect occupational information in broad categories.

Your rights as a research participant

Participation in the survey is voluntary, and we do not believe there are any risks associated with it. We will not provide payment for your involvement. You may decline to participate, decline to answer particular questions, and/or withdraw from the survey at any time without reason. If you choose to withdraw from the study, contributions up to that point will be used, but may be erased on request. RAND, the University of Glasgow, and Cardiff University will use the information you give us for research purposes only. The survey has ethical approval from the University of Glasgow and the RAND Corporation.

Next steps

Thank you for considering taking part in this study. If you are happy to proceed, please follow the link provided to begin the survey. If you have any questions or have a concern about any aspect of this project please do not hesitate to contact me, Ms Mhairi Campbell, (telephone 0141 353 7601, email Mhairi.Campbell@glasgow.ac.uk), or the College of Social Sciences Ethics Officer, Dr Muir Houston (email: Muir.Houston@glasgow.ac.uk). If you have any questions about using ExpertLens, please contact the ExpertLens Administrator (email expertlens@rand.org). If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant in research, please contact RAND's Human Subjects Protection Committee at (310) 393-0411, ext. 6369.