



# Process evaluations of complex primary health care interventions addressing chronic disease- a systematic review

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NHMRC Research Translation Symposium Nov 2018.

Presented by:

Hueiming Liu (on behalf of the co-authors), Alim Mohammed, Janani Muhunthan, Madeline News, Tracey-Lea Laba, Maree Hackett, David Peiris and Stephen Jan

# Background: What are process evaluations and why are they needed?

## Health systems, life style related NCDS are complex

- Primary health care- access, quality, affordability
- Complex interventions- multiple interacting components and actors.
- Trials- Key role of process evaluation in the development, evaluation and implementation (knowledge action cycle).



Ref: Kieny MP et. al. Strengthening health systems for universal health coverage and sustainable development. 2017 Moore et al. Process evaluation of complex interventions: Medical Research Council guidance. 2015

# Background: What are process evaluations?

*“can be used to assess **fidelity** and **quality of implementation**, clarify **causal mechanisms** and identify **contextual factors** associated with variation in outcomes.”*

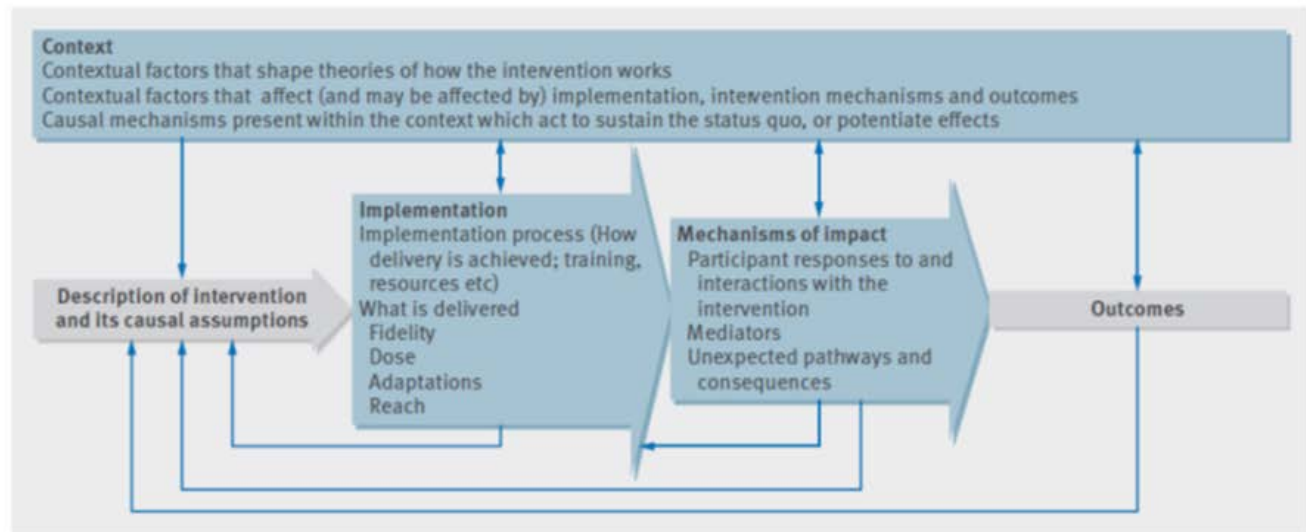


Fig 1 | Key functions of process evaluation and relations among them (blue boxes are the key components of a process evaluation. Investigation of these components is shaped by a clear intervention description and informs interpretation of outcomes)

# Aims

*Systematic review of published process evaluations of RCTs of complex interventions that address NCDs in primary health*

- *What are the methods used and their strengths and limitations?*
- *What are key implementation barriers and facilitators?*



# Methods

## Eligibility criteria:

Population: patients and health providers in primary health care setting

Complex interventions: elements of the chronic care model

Design: process evaluations of RCTs

Outcomes:

- 1) Strengths and limitations of PE using the MRC as a reference point
- 2) Facilitators and barriers

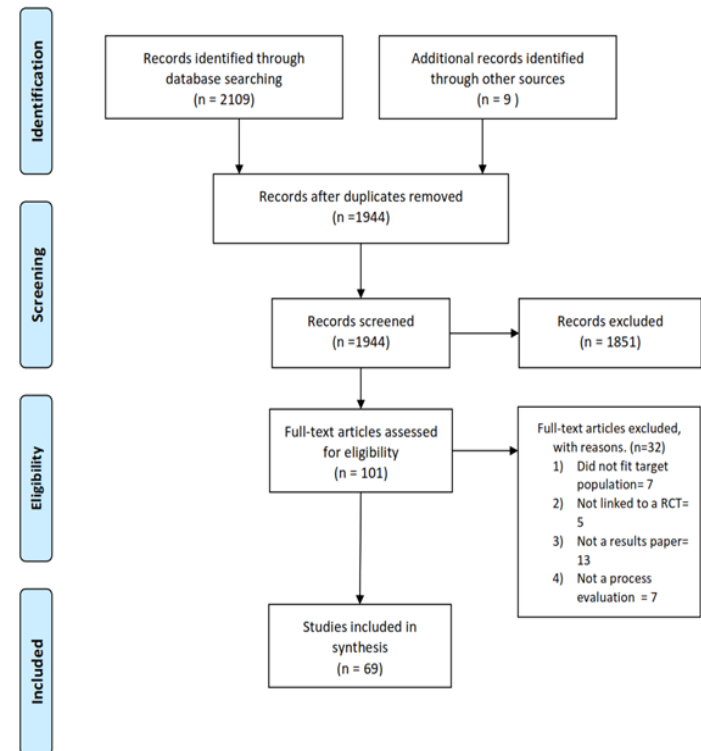
## Analysis and Synthesis:

Descriptive tables and qualitative synthesis.

Ref: Liu H, Muhunthan J et al. Examining the use of process evaluations of randomised controlled trials of complex interventions addressing chronic disease in primary health care- a systematic review protocol. *Trials*. 2016

# Findings- Overall Studies

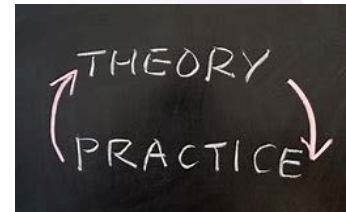
1. Overall characteristics-e.g. country setting, types of NCD, interventions (guidelines & electronic decision support, collaborative care, and self management.)
2. Stages : 20 Feasibility, 43 effectiveness, 6 post trial



# Findings- Methodology

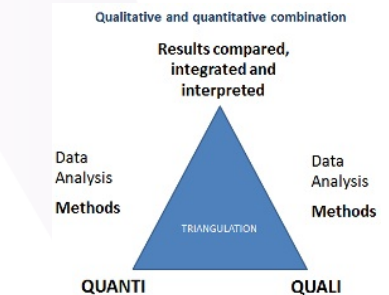
## Description of Intervention- causal assumptions

- Use of existing theories and frameworks helped
- Interaction with contextual factors not systematically reported



## Methods used- Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed

- Sampling limitations
- Triangulation of data sources



# Findings- Barriers and Facilitators

## Findings under mechanisms, implementation and context

- Does the intervention fit local needs?
- Do key actors believe in and adopt their ‘assigned’ roles and responsibilities?
- Is the context of the intervention conducive?- governance, workforce and health financing





# Discussion

## Regarding methodology

- Intervention description and the causal mechanisms

*Use of suitable theories, benefits of mixed methods.*



- Dynamic contextual factors- 'examining factors that shape theories, and affect implementation, and act to 'sustain the status quo, or potentiate effects.'

*How to best examine and report?*



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# Discussion

## Regarding barriers and facilitators

- Mismatch of intervention and local needs
- Roles and responsibilities
- Health system context



*Role for co-production of evidence starting early at the formative phase.  
What tools and resources are required to systematically address this?  
How should we evaluate the process and impact of co-production?*

# My reflections- next steps...

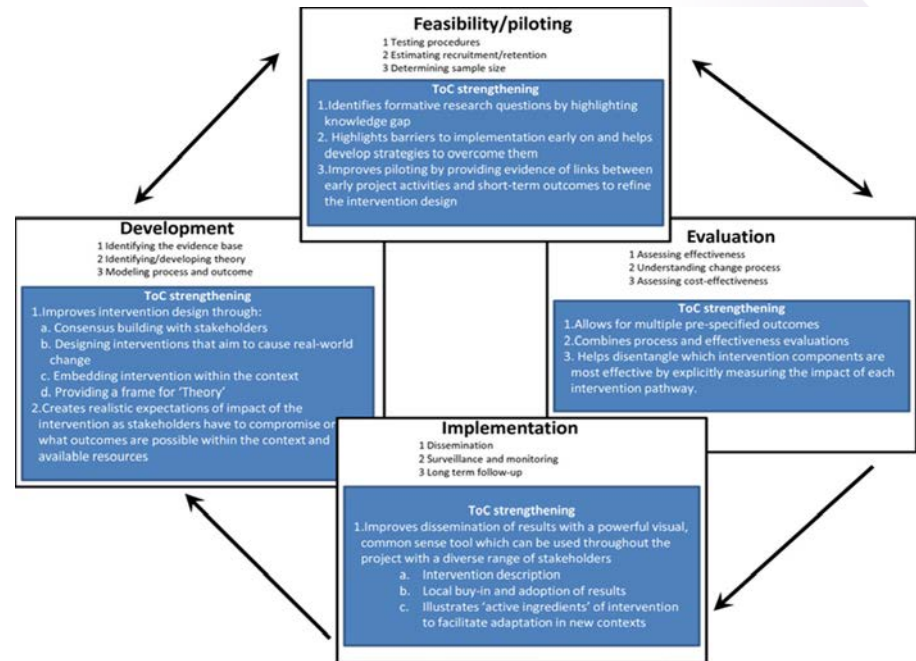


***Can iterative process evaluations be a useful tool in co-production/partnership research/embedded health systems and policy research?***

Thank you for your attention.

Any Questions?

[hliu@georgeinstitute.org.au](mailto:hliu@georgeinstitute.org.au)



De Silva et al. Theory of Change: theory driven approach to enhance the MRC framework for complex interventions. *Trials* 2014