Knowledge Translation, Dissemination, and Impact

A Glossary of Research Terminology

Dissemination of research
Dissemination is about making sure that the findings from a research study reach those who can benefit from them. It involves:

- Planned active efforts to communicate relevant research messages, in a timely way, to identified targeted audiences through appropriate channels.
- The researcher actively spreading key research messages.
- Using appropriate methods that are relevant to the what the study was about and to the those who might benefit.

Evidence based practice
The HSE manual for Evidence Based Practice uses the following definition: "Evidence-Based Practice requires that decisions about health care are based on the best available, current, valid and relevant evidence. These decisions should be made by those receiving care, informed by the tacit and explicit knowledge of those providing care, within the context of available resources. All health care professionals need to understand the principles of Evidence Based Practice (EBP), recognise it in action, implement evidence-based policies, and have a critical attitude to their own practice and to evidence. Without these skills professionals will find it difficult to provide best practice." See also: https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/qid/use-of-improvement-methods/nationalframeworkdevelopingpolicies/8-evidence-based-practice-a-practice-manual.pdf.

Impact of research

Impact is the difference research and new knowledge makes to health care, policy, society, the economy, the environment, technology, or to education and training. It is when knowledge benefits or influences others, and we can demonstrate that has happened.

Research can bring benefits to patients, population, health services, economy, academia. It can also bring about changes in activity or understanding including:

- Improvements to health and wellbeing
- Contributions to research knowledge
- Economic benefits to health services and the economy
- Adding value and reducing waste.

Impact of research can be classified in terms of cultural, economic, environmental, health, political, scientific, social, technological, education and training impacts.

Implementation science

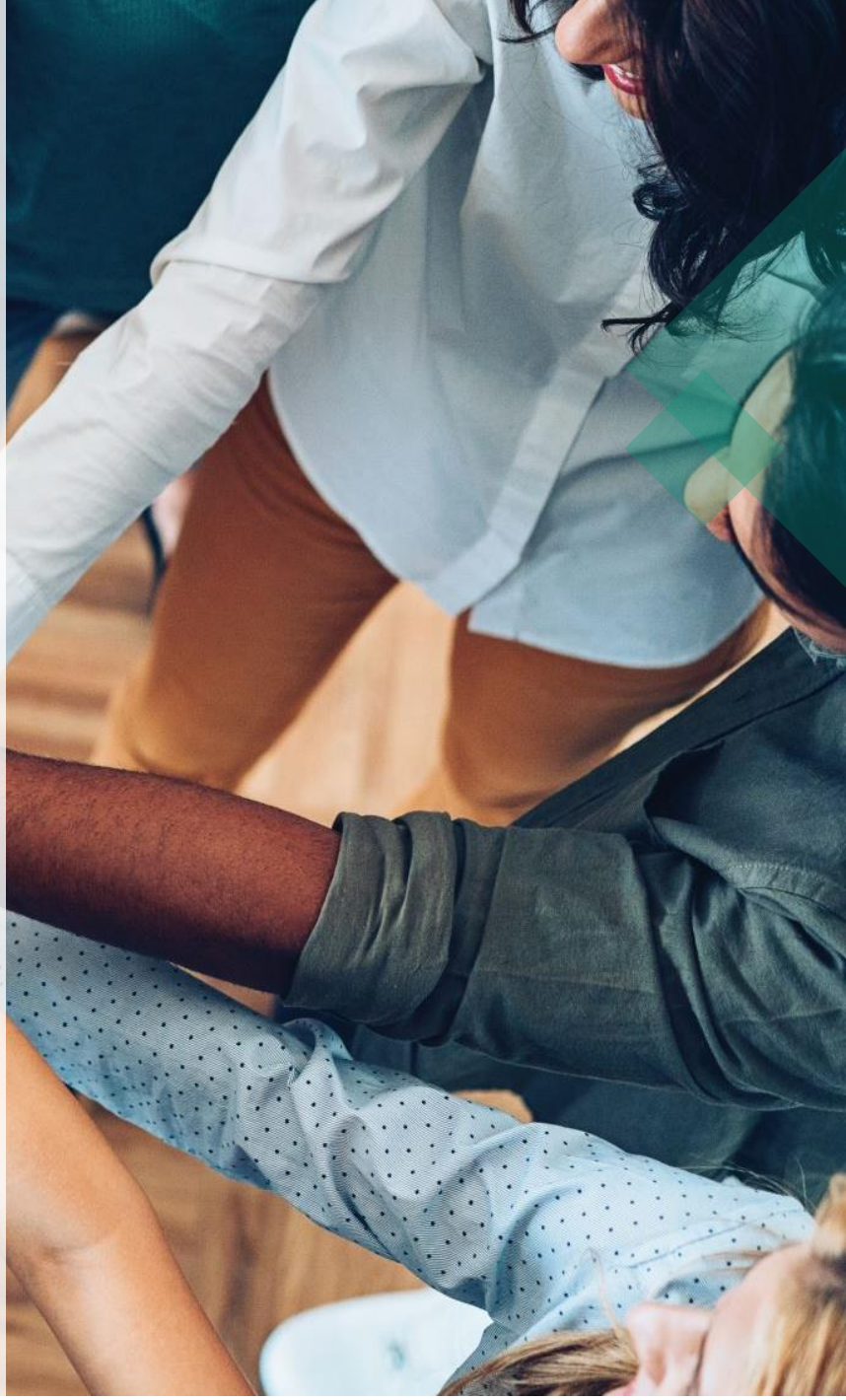
Implementation science is a study of the ways that can help evidence-based practice and research being taken up and used by those who work in health care practice and by policy makers. Evidence based practice combines the best research evidence with the expertise of clinicians, and applies it taking into account the patient's unique circumstances.

Knowledge brokering
Knowledge brokers are people who develop relationships and networks between knowledge producers/researchers and the users of knowledge by providing links to sources of knowledge and research evidence. This enables users of knowledge to access the best available research evidence to inform decision making. Knowledge brokering involves linking colleagues to a variety of research, knowledge, and information resources. A researcher may be the broker of their own knowledge.

Knowledge creation
Knowledge creation is the development of new ideas and new knowledge. It involves identifying the knowledge and evidence that exists, synthesising that knowledge or evidence and presenting it in a format that is accessible to a knowledge user.

Knowledge exchange
Knowledge exchange is a process where researchers and research users/knowledge users and/or decision makers, share ideas, insights, experience, and research findings.

Knowledge mobilisation
Knowledge mobilisation connects those who produce research and those who use it and enables them to work collaboratively to make information and research knowledge usable and accessible. It is about moving available research knowledge into active use. It tries to make connections between research knowledge and policy and practice to improve outcomes.



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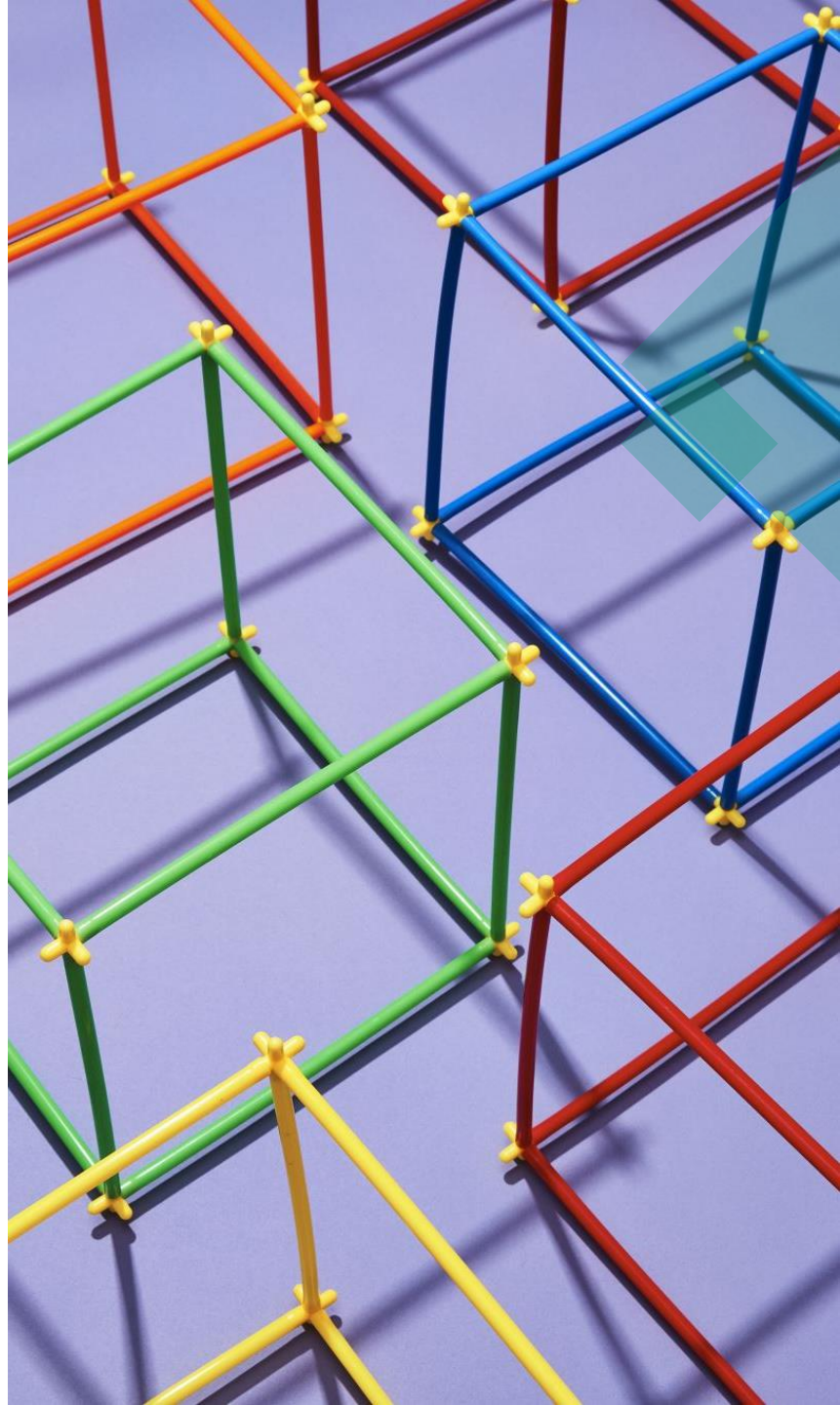
Knowledge transfer
Knowledge transfer is the process of sharing or disseminating knowledge and research from one party to another. It is a process of creating, organising, and distributing knowledge, learning and skills to ensure it is available to others.
Methods of transferring knowledge can include:

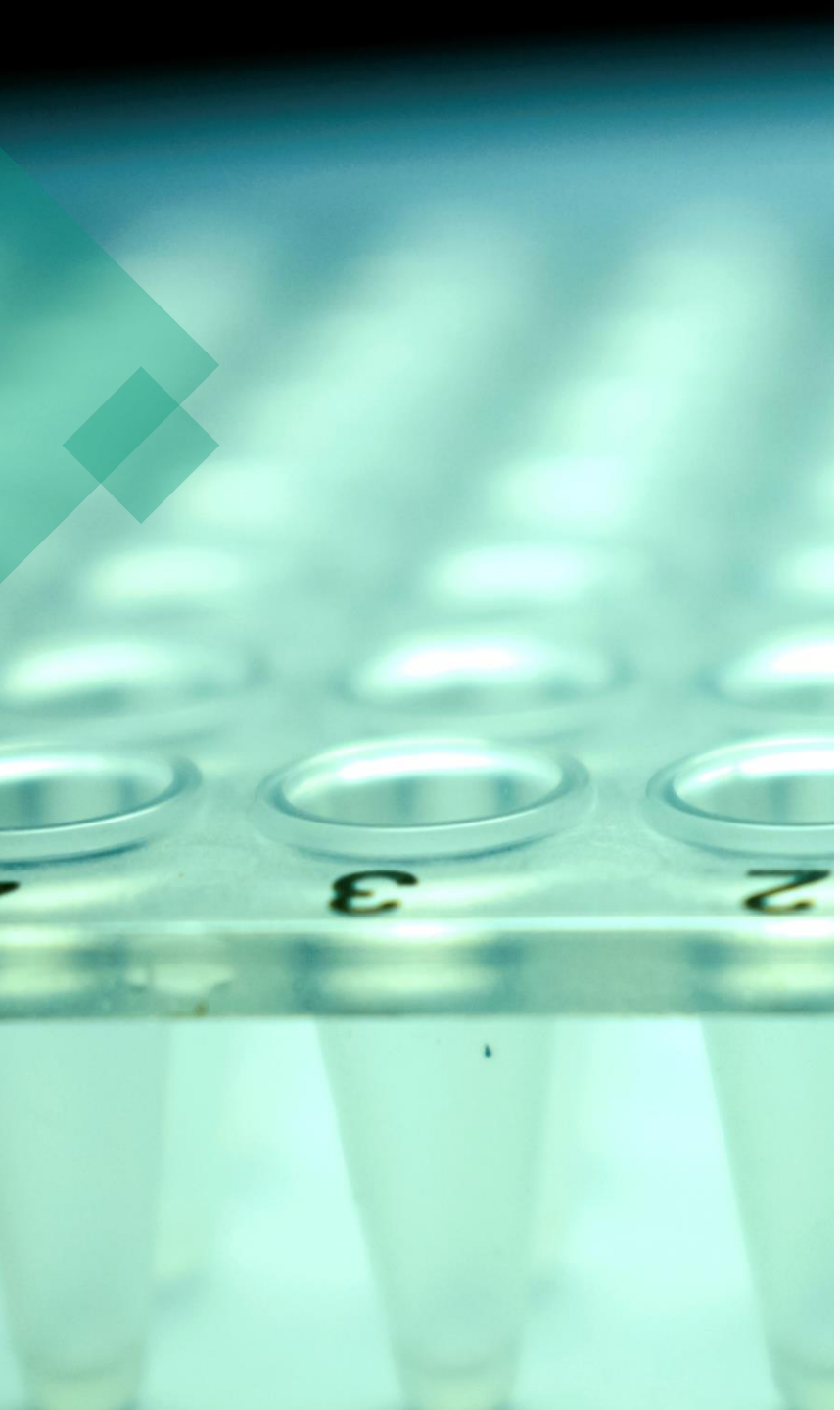
- mentorship
- communities of practice
- shadowing
- paired working

Knowledge translation
In HSE, we define knowledge translation as the process involved in reducing the gap between research and practice and making sure effective innovations are used in policy and practice. It is about finding, creating, sharing, and using knowledge, and is an interactive process between those who create knowledge and those who use it.
Knowledge Translation is defined by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research as “a dynamic and iterative process that includes synthesis, dissemination, exchange and ethically sound application of knowledge to improve the health of Canadians, provide more effective health services and products, and strengthen the health care system.” (Canadian Institutes of Health Research. 2010. About knowledge translation [Internet] Ottawa: The Institutes; Available from: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/29418.html).

Integrated Knowledge Translation
Integrated knowledge translation is a collaborative research process which brings together researchers, knowledge users, and other stakeholders who can benefit from the research, as partners. They work collaboratively throughout the research process.

Knowledge translation framework
A knowledge translation framework is a tool to guide those who want to move, or integrate, their knowledge into action e.g. into practice or policy. The use of a knowledge translation framework can increase the likelihood that research will be used and implemented.





Research
Research involves finding new knowledge and finding out whether something works, it is about studying facts, reasons, and purpose, asking the right questions and looking for the answers (the outcomes).

The HSE Action Plan for Health Research 2019 – 2029 uses the following definition of research: “the attempt to derive generalisable or transferable new knowledge to answer or refine relevant questions with scientifically sound methods” (Terres 2019).

The Health Research Regulations 2018 and 2021 (amendment)use this definition:

- research with the goal of understanding normal and abnormal functioning, at the molecular, cellular, organ system and whole body levels
- research that is specifically concerned with innovative strategies, devices, products or services for the diagnosis, treatment or prevention of human disease or injury
- research with the goal of improving the diagnosis and treatment (including the rehabilitation and palliation) of human disease and injury and of improving the health and quality of life of individuals
- research with the goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health professionals and the health care system
- research with the goal of improving the health of the population as a whole or any part of the population through a better understanding of the ways in which social, cultural, environmental, occupational, and economic factors determine health status

Research Translation

Research translation is a process of generating and transferring knowledge that enables those who can use the knowledge that has been created to apply it. Research findings are translated into practice, policy, guidance, training or education or into further research. The pathway on which research is translated can be in multiple different directions. In clinical research this might span four phases of moving research from bench to bedside to population health (as identified by Davidson, 2011):

- the translation of basic research into a clinical application.
- efficacy studies where new interventions are trialled.
- effectiveness studies, where phase 2 interventions are trialled in ‘real world’ settings.
- impact studies, where the impact of a new intervention/guideline is evaluated at a population level.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual property can be described as the products of intellectual or creative activity. This can take the form of novel ideas, innovation, or research. It might involve inventions, techniques, drug development, processes, that can be given legal recognition of ownership through intellectual property rights. Intellectual property rights can take the form of copyright, patents, trademarks, or design rights.