Usability and applicability of research knowledge translation models in a national health service

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Background:
The Health Service Executive in Ireland aims to facilitate the translation of research and innovation into policy and practice and increase dissemination of research. Previous HSE surveys showed that a high volume of research was undertaken but the impact on practice and policy was unclear. Researchers reported sharing their research in publications, conferences, and through education and training but identified problems in engaging with practice and policy stakeholders. Survey respondents requested help with dissemination and getting research into practice. An organisation-wide project to identify frameworks to support knowledge translation (KT), dissemination, and impact identified a recommended methodology, created guidance, and training for knowledge creators and users.

Objectives:
- Provide a series of six guides, tools and templates, to support knowledge creators and users across the organisation
- Provide online training to support translation and dissemination of research knowledge
- Underline the importance of planning KT and impact at research commencement and identify the planned outcomes
- Develop user-friendly training to explain the elements of KT and dissemination.

Results:
Two pilot studies were undertaken to test the guidance which, although positively received, resulted in changes to the format, design, and language to increase usability. An explainer video and six online training modules were developed, based on the guidance and pilot feedback to be rolled out from July 2021. Learning was enhanced through transfer of complex information and models into short training modules to be accessed by researchers with a range of experience and understanding.

Conclusions:
KT is a complex area and developing education and training for it requires understanding the different learning needs of knowledge creators and users. Education and training should focus on the need for KT and impact from the start of a project.

Key messages:
- Practical guidance to assist researchers in translation of their research findings into practice and improving dissemination enhances service user impact.
- Education and training should focus on the need to plan for KT from the start of a project.