Sparking Action to Support Rapid-Learning Health and Social Systems in Canada

APPTA Policy Rounds Series

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Michael G. Wilson, PhD
Assistant Director, McMaster Health Forum
Associate Professor, Health Evidence and Impact
Overview

- Supporting evidence-informed policymaking
- Rapid-learning health and social systems
- Discussion of efforts to sparking action in area both in AGE-WELL and elsewhere
- Q&A
Supporting Evidence-Informed Policy

- Systematically and transparently using the best available data and research evidence, as well as citizens’ values and preferences, in each of:
  1) Prioritizing problems and understanding their causes (agenda setting)
  2) Deciding which option to pursue (policy development)
  3) Ensuring the chosen option makes an optimal impact at acceptable cost (policy implementation)

- … alongside the institutional constraints, interest-group pressure, values and other types of information (like jurisdictional reviews, consultations, expert review groups, and opinion polls) that influence the policy process.
Some Perspective on EIP

Which programs, services and drugs to fund or provide

How to get the right mix of programs, services and drugs to those who need them (e.g., team-based care, adherence supports)

### Rapid-Learning Health Systems

The combination of a health system and a research system that at all levels – self-management, clinical encounter, program, organization, regional (or provincial) health authority and government – is:

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<th>Patient centred</th>
<th>Data and evidence driven</th>
<th>System supported</th>
<th>Culture and competencies enabled</th>
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| • Engaged patients | • Digital capture, linkage and timely sharing of relevant data  
  • Timely production of research evidence | • Appropriate decision supports  
  • Aligned governance, financial and delivery arrangements | • Culture of rapid learning and improvement  
  • Competencies for rapid learning and improvement |
**Why rapid learning?**

1) Most policy initiatives will **use up some political & social capital** (to launch, institutionalize & sustain it)

2) No policy initiative will **get it right** the first time or get it right for all time

3) No policy initiative will **do it all**

4) Any policy initiative also needs to be seen as a chance to do **more to achieve the quadruple aim**
Three Categories of Supports That Can Help to Achieve the Trifecta of a Compelling Problem, a Viable Policy / Decision, and Conducive Politics

**Dynamic response**  
(tried and tested with the McMaster Health Forum and its ‘sister’ centres)  
Provide locally contextualized ‘best evidence’ and systematically elicited citizen values & stakeholder insights in 3-90 business days (e.g., rapid syntheses, citizen panels & stakeholder dialogues)

**Structural reform**  
(no wins yet beyond WHO, but we’re just ramping up)  
Institutionalize the use of synthesized research evidence as an input to commissions / inquiries and to robust citizen- & stakeholder-engagement processes, and require the justification of recommendations based on research evidence

**Implementation support**  
(so far, so good with RISE: Rapid-Improvement Support and Exchange)  
Provide evidence-based technical supports for ‘rapid learning and improvement’ in the 3-5 year implementation of a ‘low rules’ system-wide transformation (e.g., collaboratives, coaching, events, webinars, briefs, syntheses & website)
AGE-WELL Example (1)

- AGE-WELL platform project focused on tech-based solutions for enabling rapid-learning health and social systems
  - Identifying three topics (possibly more) over three years
    - Working with an interdisciplinary steering committee for each topic (AGE-WELL partners and others)
    - For each topic we are convening citizen panels followed by a national stakeholder dialogue to generate insights and action
    - Each informed by a citizen brief and evidence brief
AGE-WELL Example (2)

- First topic = Identifying and harnessing the potential of technology in long-term care settings in Canada
  - Tentative focus of deliberations (currently a work in progress)
    - Identifying and harnessing the potential of communication technologies in long-term care
    - Identifying and harnessing the potential of technologies that support care provision in long-term care
    - Enable a rapid-learning approach to support the development, evaluation and implementation of new technologies to enhance experience and outcomes, keep costs manageable and ensure positive provider experiences
Opportunities

- The COVID-19 pandemic can help spark action towards:
  - A more joined up network in Canada (reducing the noise signal ratio)
  - Accelerating gains made in areas like virtual care
  - Focusing on moving forward with areas that have become apparent as needing to strengthen going forward (e.g., LTC, integrated care, etc.), many of which are areas of long-called for reforms
Q&A

Contact:

- wilsom2@mcmaster.ca
- Twitter: Wilson_MichaelG