Implementation Science Research Glossary

A consolidation of more than 100 terms and acronyms used in implementation research

About the glossary

This resource is a consolidation of more than 100 terms and acronyms used in implementation research. Several implementation science glossaries have been developed, including A glossary for Dissemination and Implementation in Health (2008), KIS glossary of terms used in improvement and implementation science (2018), and Glossary of Key Implementation Science Terms and Acronyms (2018). This glossary aims to build upon pre-existing glossaries by providing an up-to-date and comprehensive list of terms and acronyms relating specifically to implementation science research.

It has been developed by researchers in the Centre for Implementation Science at King's College London and King's Improvement Science. The development of this resource has been led by the National Institute for Health Research Applied Research Collaboration South London (NIHR ARC South London) at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and supported by King's Improvement Science.

Who is this glossary for?
Research teams designing, conducting and reporting implementation research.

Get in touch
Please get in touch if you have any other suggestions for the glossary. Email us at: arc-communications@kcl.ac.uk We would love to hear from you!

Acknowledgements
The development of this resource was supported by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration South London (NIHR ARC South London) at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and King's Improvement Science; a specialist team of improvement scientists and researchers based at King's College London. King's Improvement Science is funded by King's Health Partners (Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, King's College London, and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust) and the Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation. The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.

1. Please note that online content may change or be (re)moved without our knowledge. If any of the links within this resource do not open straightaway, please copy them into your browser.

2. How to cite this resource: NIHR Applied Research Collaboration South London Implementation Science Research Glossary. Available from https://arc-sl.nihr.ac.uk/. Last accessed [insert date accessed]

3. If viewing this document using a web browser, right click on a link and select 'Open in a new tab'

Jump directly to sections by clicking the letters below.

A	B	C
D	E	F
G	H	I
J	K	L
M	N	O
P	Q	R
S	T	U
V	W	X
Y	Z	

Jump to a letter click on the alphabet string on each page

A

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Acceptability	The perception among implementation stakeholders that a given treatment, service, practice, or innovation is agreeable, palatable, or satisfactory. See **implementation outcomes**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20957426/
The **Action** [in relation to implementation strategies]	Active verb statements that specify the specific actions, steps, or processes that need to be enacted. See **implementation strategy**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24289295/
The **Actor** (in relation to implementation strategies)	The stakeholder(s) who enacts the strategy. See **implementation strategy**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24289295/
Adaptation (in relation to the evidence-based intervention and/or implementation strategy)	A process of thoughtful and deliberate alteration to the design or delivery of an intervention, with the goal of improving its fit or effectiveness in a given context. Related to but distinct from **modification** See **FRAME**, and **FRAME-IS**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31171014/
Adoption	The intention, initial decision, or action to try or employ an innovation or evidence-based practice. The absolute number, proportion, and representativeness of settings and intervention agents (people who deliver the program) who are willing to initiate a programme. See **implementation outcomes** and **RE-AIM**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20957426/ https://re-aim.org/learn/what-is-re-aim/

Appropriateness

The perceived fit, relevance, or compatibility of the innovation or evidence-based practice for a given practice setting, provider, or consumer; and/or perceived fit of the innovation to address a particular issue or problem.

See **implementation outcomes**

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20957426/

B

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Behaviour change wheel	A framework for characterising and designing behaviour change interventions.	https://implementationscience. biomedcentral. com/ articles/10.1186/ 1748-5908-6-42
Blended implementation strategy	Instances in which a number of discrete strategies, addressing multiple levels and barriers to change, are interwoven and packaged as a protocolised or branded implementation intervention. See **discrete implementation strategy, multifaceted implementation strategy** and **implementation strategy**	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/ pmc/articles/PMC3524416/

C

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
CFIR	See **Consolidated Framework for Improvement Research**	https://cfirguide.org/
Classic implementation theories	Theories that originate from fields external to implementation science, e.g. psychology, sociology and organisational theory, which can be applied to provide understanding and/or explanation of aspects of implementation. See **theory**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25895742/
Complex intervention	An intervention might be considered complex because of properties of the intervention itself, such as the number of components involved; the range of behaviours targeted; expertise and skills required by those delivering and receiving the intervention; the number of groups, settings, or levels targeted; or the permitted level of flexibility of the intervention or its components.	https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n2061
Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR)	A practical framework to help guide systematic assessment of potential barriers and facilitators. Knowing this information can help guide tailoring of implementation strategies and needed adaptations, and/or to explain outcomes. See **determinant frameworks**	https://cfirguide.org/
Context	The set of circumstances or unique factors that surround a particular implementation effort.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19664226/
Core components	The essential and indispensable elements of an evidence-based intervention and/or implementation strategy.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19664226/
Cost (incremental or implementation cost)	The cost impact of an implementation effort. See **implementation outcomes**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20957426/

D

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Defined (in relation to implementation strategies)	The conceptual definition of the implementation strategy and the operational definition of any discrete components. See **implementation strategy**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24289295/
De-implementation	The discontinuation or abandonment of practices that are not proven to be effective, are less effective or less cost-effective than an alternative practice, or are potentially harmful.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34819122/
Determinant frameworks	Specify types (also known as classes or domains) of determinants and individual determinants, which act as barriers and enablers (independent variables) that influence implementation outcomes (dependent variables). Some frameworks also specify relationships between some types of determinants. The overarching aim is to understand and/or explain influences on implementation outcomes, e.g. predicting outcomes or interpreting outcomes retrospectively. See **frameworks**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25895742/
Discrete implementation strategy	Involve one process or action (e.g., reminders, educational meetings). See **blended implementation strategy, implementation strategy, multifaceted implementation strategy**	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3524416/
Dissemination	An active approach of spreading evidence-based interventions to the target audience via determined channels using planned strategies.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18287916/
Dose (in relation to implementation strategies)	The dosage or intensity of the strategy. See **implementation strategy**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24289295/

E

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Economic evaluation	The analysis of the costs and effects of alternative interventions that may be given to a defined population in order to support decision-making about reimbursement or implementation of the preferred interventions.	https://yhec.co.uk/resources/glossary/
Effectiveness	The impact of an intervention on important outcomes, including potential negative effects, quality of life, and economic outcomes. See **implementation outcomes** and **RE-AIM**	https://re-aim.org/learn/what-is-re-aim/
Effectiveness-implementation hybrid studies	Studies that takes a dual focus a priori in assessing clinical effectiveness and implementation. See **hybrid type 1 studies, hybrid type 2 studies,** and **hybrid type 3 studies**	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3731143/ https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10012680/
Engagement	Where information and knowledge about research is provided and disseminated. Related to but distinct from **involvement**	https://www.invo.org.uk/resource-centre/jargon-buster/
EPIS	See **Exploration, Preparation, Implementation and Sustainment (EPIS) framework**	https://episframework.com/
Evaluation frameworks	Specify aspects of implementation that could be evaluated to determine implementation success.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25895742/
Evidence-based intervention	Programmes, practices, policies, and guidelines with proven efficacy. See **framework** and **determinant framework**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29328872/

Exploration	A phase of implementation during which potential implementers consider what evidence-based practices might address or solve a clinical or health service problem, while also considering opportunities or challenges in the outer and inner contextual factors that can support or hinder implementation. See **EPIS framework**, **preparation**, **implementation** and **sustainment**	https://episframework.com/projects
Exploration, Preparation, Implementation, Sustainment (EPIS) framework	EPIS highlights key phases that guide and describe the implementation process and enumerates common and unique factors within and across levels of outer context (system) and inner (organisational) context across phases, factors that bridge outer and inner context, and the nature of the innovation or practice being implemented and the role of innovation/ practice developers. See **exploration**, **preparation**, **implementation** and **sustainment**	https://episframework.com/

F

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Feasibility	The extent to which a new treatment, or an innovation, can be successfully used or carried out within a given agency or setting. See **implementation outcomes**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20957426/
Fidelity	The degree to which an intervention was implemented as it was prescribed in the original protocol or as it was intended by the programme developers. See **fidelity of delivery, fidelity of receipt** and **implementation outcomes**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20957426/
Fidelity of delivery	The degree to which an intervention was implemented as it was prescribed in the original protocol or as it was intended by the programme developers. See **fidelity, fidelity of delivery** and **implementation outcomes**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20957426/
Fidelity of receipt	The extent to which participants actively engage with, interact with, are receptive to, and/or use materials or recommended resources. See **fidelity, fidelity of delivery** and **implementation outcomes**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15855283/
FRAME	See **Framework for Reporting Adaptations and Modifications to evidence-based interventions**	https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13012-019-0898-y
FRAME-IS	See **Framework for Reporting Adaptations and Modifications to Evidence-based Implementation Strategies**	https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13012-021-01105-3

Framework	A structure, overview, outline, system or plan consisting of various descriptive categories, e.g. concepts, constructs or variables, and the relations between them that are presumed to account for a phenomenon. Frameworks do not provide explanations; they only describe empirical phenomena by fitting them into a set of categories. See **determinant frameworks** and **evaluation frameworks**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25895742/
Framework for reporting adaptations and modifications to evidence-based interventions (FRAME)	A framework for reporting adaptations and modifications to evidence-based interventions.	https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13012-019-0898-y
Framework for reporting adaptations and modifications to evidence-based implementation strategies FRAME-IS)	A framework for documenting modifications to implementation strategies.	https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13012-021-01105-3

G

There are currently no terms listed under this letter. If you have any suggestions please email us at: arccommunications@kcl.ac.uk. We would love to hear from you!

H

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Hybrid type 1 studies	Studies that focus primarily on testing the effectiveness of an intervention while simultaneously gathering information on implementation factors (e.g., barriers to implementation, potential ways in which to revise the intervention to improve uptake). See **Effectiveness-implementation hybrid studies**, **hybrid type 2 studies**, and **hybrid type 3 studies**	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10012680/
Hybrid type 2 studies	Studies that have a dual focus, testing both interventions and implementation strategies simultaneously. See **Effectiveness-implementation hybrid studies**, **hybrid type 1 studies**, and **hybrid type 3 studies**	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/ gov/pmc/articles/PMC10012680/
Hybrid type 3 studies	Studies that focus primarily on testing the impact of an implementation strategy (or strategies) on implementation outcome (e.g., adoption and fidelity of intervention delivery), while simultaneously gathering information on the effectiveness of the intervention. See **Effectiveness-implementation hybrid studies**, **hybrid type 1 studies**, and **hybrid type 2 studies**	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/ gov/pmc/articles/PMC10012680/

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Implementation	At the setting level, implementation refers to the intervention agents' fidelity to the various elements of an intervention's protocol, including consistency of delivery as intended and the time and cost of the intervention. At the individual level, implementation refers to clients' use of the intervention strategies.	https://re-aim.org/learn/what-is-re-aim/
	A phase of implementation during which the adopted practice is implemented. This is where the rubber meets the road and the implementers will find out if their work during the Preparation Phase addressed the major issues. See **EPIS framework**, **fidelity**, **implementation outcomes**, **implementation strategies**, and **RE-AIM**	https://episframework.com/implementation
Implementation cost	Costs related to the development and execution of the implementation strategy that targets one or more specific evidence-based interventions. See **implementation outcomes**	https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13012-021-01172-6
Implementation determinants	Factors that obstruct or enable changes in targeted professional behaviours or healthcare delivery processes. These factors have been referred to as barriers and enablers, barriers and facilitators, or problems and incentives.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25112492/

Implementation outcomes	The effects of deliberate and purposive actions to implement new treatments, practices, and services. See **acceptability**, **adoption**, **appropriateness**, **cost**, **feasibility**, **fidelity**, **implementation**, **implementation costs**, **maintenance**, **penetration**, **reach**, **RE-AIM** and **sustainability**	https://pubmed.ncbi. nlm.nih.gov/25112492/
Implementation science/research	The scientific study of methods to promote the systematic uptake of research findings and other evidence-based practices into routine practice, and, hence, to improve the quality and effectiveness of health services and care. It includes the study of influences on healthcare professional and organisational behaviour. Distinct from **improvement science**	https://implementationscience. biomedcentral.com/articles/ 10.1186/1748-5908-1-1
Implementation Science Research Development (ImpRes) tool	A tool to support the design of high-quality implementation research.	https://implementationscience biomedcentral.com/articles/ 10.1186/s13012-019-0897-z
Implementation Science Research Proposal Appraisal Criteria (ImpResPAC) tool	A quantitative tool to appraise the conceptual and methodological quality of implementation research proposals.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm. nih.gov/36526311/
Implementation strategies	Methods or techniques used to enhance the adoption, implementation, and sustainability of a clinical program or practice.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm. nih.gov/22310560/
Implementation theories	Theories that have been developed by implementation researchers (from scratch or by adapting existing theories and concepts) to provide understanding and/or explanation of aspects of implementation.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm. nih.gov/25895742/
ImpRes	See **Implementation Science Research Development tool**	https://implementationscience. biomedcentral.com/articles/ 10.1186/s13012-019-0897-z

ImpResPAC	See **Implementation Science Research Proposal Appraisal Criteria (ImpResPAC) tool**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm. nih.gov/36526311/
Implementation Research Logic Model (IRLM)	A semi-structured, principle-guided tool designed to improve the specification, rigor, reproducibility, and testable causal pathways involved in implementation research projects.	https://implementationscience. biomedcentral.com/articles/ 10.1186/s13012-020-01041-8
The ImplemeNtation and Improvement Science Proposals Evaluation CriTeria (INSPECT) scoring system	A tool to support the assessment of dissemination and implementation science research proposals.	https://implementation sciencecomms. biomedcentral. com /articles/10.1186/ s43058-023-00399-2
Improvement science	Improvement science is about finding out how to improve and make changes in the most effective way. It is about systematically examining the methods and factors that best work to facilitate quality improvement. Distinct from **implementation science**	https://www.health.org.uk/ publications/improvement- science
Involvement	Involvement in research refers to active involvement between people who use services, carers and researchers, rather than the use of people as participants in research (or as research 'subjects'). Related to but distinct from **engagement**	https://www.invo.org.uk/ resource-centre/ jargon-buster/
IRLM	See **Implementation Research Logic Model**	https://implementationscience. biomedcentral.com/articles/ 10.1186/s13012-020-01041-8

J

There are currently no terms listed under this letter. If you have any suggestions please email us at: arccommunications@kcl.ac.uk. We would love to hear from you!

K

There are currently no terms listed under this letter. If you have any suggestions please email us at: arccommunications@kcl.ac.uk. We would love to hear from you!

L

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Logic model	A one-page visual representation of a project/programme that outlines the resources required and the sequence of actions thought to bring about change. See **Implementation Research Logic Model**	https://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/overview/models-for-community-health-and-development/logic-model-development/main

M

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Maintenance	The extent to which a program or policy becomes institutionalized or part of the routine organisational practices and policies. Within the RE-AIM framework, maintenance also applies at the individual level. At the individual level, maintenance has been defined as the long-term effects of a program on outcomes after 6 or more months after the most recent intervention contact. See **implementation outcomes** and **RE-AIM**	https://re-aim.org/learn/what-is-re-aim/
Mechanism of action [in relation to implementation strategies]	The processes or events through which an implementation strategy operates to affect desired implementation outcomes.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29868544/
Misimplementation	Ending effective programs and policies prematurely or continuing ineffective ones.	https://dissemination-implementation.org/glossary/
Model	A deliberate simplification of a phenomenon or a specific aspect of a phenomenon.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25895742/
Modification	Any changes made to interventions, whether deliberately and proactively (adaptation), or in reaction to unanticipated challenges that arise in a given session or context. Related to but distinct from **adaptation** See adaptation, **FRAME**, and **FRAME-IS**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31171014/
Multifaceted implementation strategy	Two or more discrete strategies (e.g., training plus technical assistance). See **blended implementation strategy**, **discrete implementation strategy** and **implementation strategy**	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3524416/

N

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Named [in relation to implementation strategies]	The naming or labelling of implementation strategies. See **implementation strategy**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24289295/
Normalization Process Theory (NPT)	A conceptual framework for understanding and evaluating the processes (implementation) by which new health technologies and other complex interventions are routinely operationalized in everyday work (embedding) and sustained in practice (integration). See **implementation theories**	https://normalization-process-theory.northumbria.ac.uk/theory-behind-npt/
NPT	See **Normalization Process Theory**	https://normalization-process-theory.northumbria.ac.uk/theory-behind-npt/

O

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Opportunity cost	The opportunity cost of an intervention is what is foregone as a consequence of adopting a new intervention.	https://yhec.co.uk/resources/glossary/

P

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Patient outcomes	Satisfaction, Function, and Symptomatology.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20957426/
Penetration	The integration of a practice within a service setting and its subsystems. See **implementation outcomes**	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3068522/
Pragmatic quality [in relation to quantitative outcome instruments]	Instruments that are practical (i.e., not burdensome, brief, reliable, valid and sensitive to change).	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36318228/
Preparation	A phase of implementation during which implementers plan for integrating the evidence-based practice into the existing system, including a realistic and comprehensive assessment of implementation challenges. See **EPIS framework**, **exploration**, **implementation** and **sustainment**	https://episframework.com/partners
The Practical Implementation Sustainability Model (PRISM)	A framework that considers the multilevel and dynamic interactions between the evidence-based intervention, the perspective and characteristics of diverse recipients (e.g., patients, clinicians, decision makers), the implementation and sustainability infrastructure, and the external environment (e.g., laws and regulations, clinical practice guidelines).	https://re-aim.org/learn/prism/
PRISM	See **The Practical Implementation Sustainability Model (PRISM)**	https://re-aim.org/learn/prism/

Process evaluation	An important component of an effectiveness evaluation focusing on understanding the relationship between interventions and context to explain how and why interventions work or fail and whether they can be transferred to other settings and populations.	https://trialsjournal. biomedcentral. com/articles/ 10.1186/s13063-020-04880-4
Process models	Specify steps (stages, phases) in the process of translating research into practice, including the implementation and use of research. The aim of process models is to describe and/or guide the process of translating research into practice. An action model is a type of process model that provides practical guidance in the planning and execution of implementation endeavours and/or implementation strategies to facilitate implementation.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih. gov/25895742/
Programme theory	An account (often diagrammatic) of the intervention's components together with a narrative about the structures, behaviours, processes and contextual features that will be needed to achieve the aims and actions of the intervention.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih. gov/25616279/
	Describes how an intervention is expected to lead to its effects and under what conditions. It articulates the key components of the intervention and how they interact, the mechanisms of the intervention, the features of the context that are expected to influence those mechanisms, and how those mechanisms might influence the context. See **Logic Models** and **Theory of Change**	https://www.bmj.com/ content/374/bmj.n2061
Proximal outcome	The product of the implementation strategy that is realised because of its specific mechanism of action, the most immediate, observable outcome in the causal pathway.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih. gov/29868544/

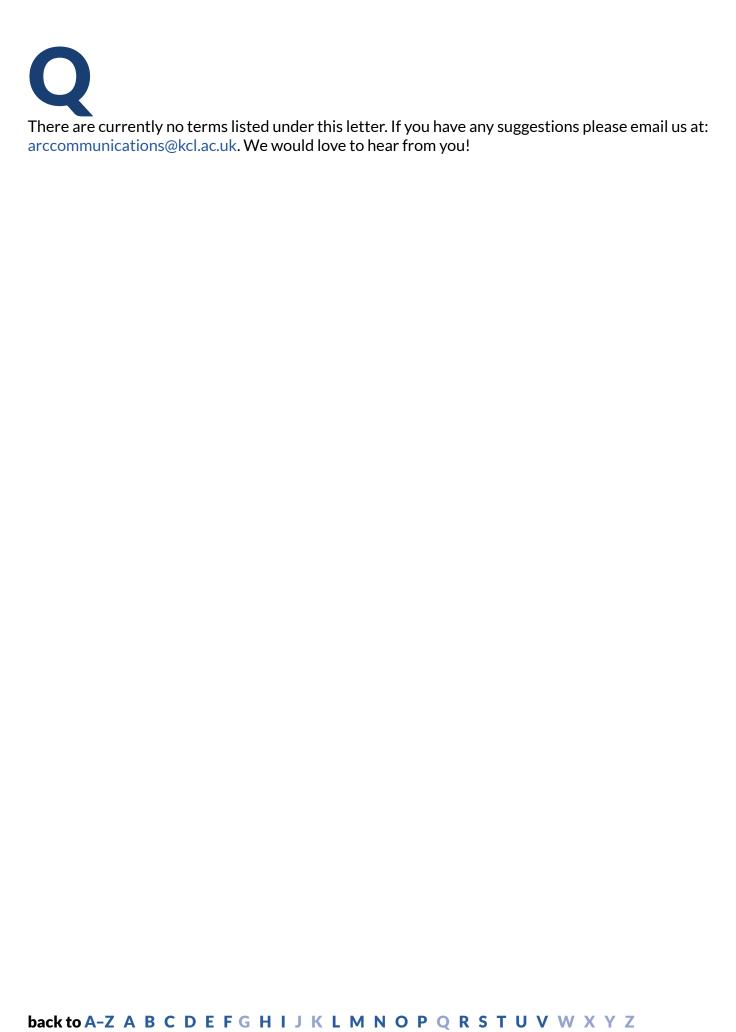| **Psychometric properties** [in relation to quantitative outcome instruments] | Refers to the validity and reliability of a measurement tool.

See **reliability** and **validity** | https://yhec.co.uk/resources/glossary/ |

Q

There are currently no terms listed under this letter. If you have any suggestions please email us at: arccommunications@kcl.ac.uk. We would love to hear from you!

R

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Reach	The absolute number, proportion, and representativeness of individuals who are willing to participate in a given initiative, intervention, or program. See **implementation outcomes** and **RE-AIM**	https://re-aim.org/learn/what-is-re-aim/
RE-AIM	RE-AIM is a framework to guide the planning and evaluation of programs according to the 5 key RE-AIM outcomes: Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, and Maintenance. See **implementation outcomes**, **reach**, **effectiveness**, **adoption**, **implementation**, and **maintenance**	https://re-aim.org/
Referent [in relation to implementation outcomes]	The specification of "the thing" [e.g.,the evidence-based implementation strategy, the implementation strategy] that the implementation outcome is measured in relation to. See **implementation outcomes**	https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/ 10.1186/ s13012-021-01183-3
Re-implementation	The systematic process of reintroducing an intervention in the same environment, often with some degree of modification, offers another chance at implementation with the opportunity to address failures, modify, and ultimately achieve the desired outcomes. Three types of re-implementation have been proposed: Type 1: Re-implementation following failedimplementation; Type 2: Re-implementation due to a flawed intervention; Type 3: Re-implementation of an unsustained intervention.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37277862/

Reliability

The quality of measurement in terms of consistency and/or repeatability, that is whether something (such as a result obtained in a study) can be replicated. There are many different types of reliability e.g. test-retest reliability, inter-rater reliability.

Related to but distinct from **validity**

https://www.socialresearch methods.net/kb/reliable.php

S

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Service outcomes	Efficiency, Safety, Effectiveness, Equity, Patient-Centeredness, and Timeliness.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20957426/
Specified/ Operationalised [in relation to implementation strategies]	The description of implementation strategies that ensures that implementation strategies are discussed at a common level of granularity, are rateable across multiple dimensions, and are readily comparable. See **implementation strategy**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24289295/
Standards for Reporting Implementation Studies (StaRI) Statement	Statement to improve the reporting of implementation studies, employing a range of study designs to develop and evaluate implementation strategies with the aim of enhancing adoption and sustainability of effective interventions.	https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/stari-statement/
Stakeholders	Individuals who are targeted by the intervention or policy, those involved in its development or delivery, or those whose personal or professional interests are affected (that is, all those who have a stake in the topic).	https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n2061
Steering/advisory group	Groups that are made up of experts who oversee a research project to ensure that protocol is followed and provide advice and troubleshoot where necessary. It is good practice to include at least two members of the public on a steering group.	https://www.invo.org.uk/what-is-a-steering-group/?print=print#:~:text= Steering%20 Steering%20groups%20 groups%20are%20made%20 up,public%20on%20a%20 steering%20group.
Sustainability	The extent to which a newly implemented treatment is maintained or institutionalised within a service setting's ongoing, stable operations. See **implementation outcomes**	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3068522/

| **Sustainment** | A phase of implementation during which the intervention is engrained in the organisation, including stable funding and ongoing monitoring and /or qualityassurance processes. | https://episframework.com/contact |

See **EPIS framework**, **exploration**, **implementation**, **implementation outcomes** and **preparation**

T

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Tailoring [in relation to implementation strategies]	The selection, operationalization, and application of implementation strategies likely to address the identified determinants. See **implementation strategy**	https://trialsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13063-020-04686-4
The action **Target** [in relation to implementation strategies]	Target(s) according to conceptual models of implementation and unit of analysis for measuring implementation outcomes.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24289295/
T-CaST	See **Theory Comparison and Selection Tool**	https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13012-018-0836-4
TDF	See **Theoretical Domains Framework**	https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1748-5908-7-37
Temporality [in relation to implementation strategies]	When the implementation strategy is used. See **implementation strategy**	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24289295/
Theoretical Domains Framework (TDF)	An integrative theoretical framework, developed for cross-disciplinary implementation and other behaviour change research.	https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1748-5908-7-37
Theory	A set of analytical principles or statements designed to structure our observation, understanding and explanation of the world.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25895742/
Theory Comparison and Selection Tool (T-CaST)	A tool to help scientists and practitioners select appropriate implementation theories, models and frameworks to guide implementation projects.	https://implementationscience.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13012-018-0836-4

Theory of change

Theories of change (ToCs) describe how interventions can bring about long-term outcomes through a logical sequence of intermediate outcomes. The construction of a ToC typically occurs through a consultative process, requiring stakeholders to reflect on how their programmes can bring about change. ToCs help make explicit any underlying assumptions, acknowledge the role of context and provide evidence to justify the chain of causal pathways.

Based on
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5838401/

U

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Unintended consequences	Outcomes that are not planned or intended at the time of an intervention/ as a result of an intervention. They can be positive or negative.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19773653/

V

Term/acronym	Definitions	References
Validity	The quality of measurement in terms of whether a measure truly captures what it claims to capture (related to but distinct from reliability). There are many different types of validity, e.g. content validity or construct validity. Related to but distinct from **reliability**	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16872117

W

There are currently no terms listed under this letter. If you have any suggestions please email us at: arccommunications@kcl.ac.uk. We would love to hear from you!

X

There are currently no terms listed under this letter. If you have any suggestions please email us at: arccommunications@kcl.ac.uk. We would love to hear from you!

Y

There are currently no terms listed under this letter. If you have any suggestions please email us at: arccommunications@kcl.ac.uk. We would love to hear from you!

Z

There are currently no terms listed under this letter. If you have any suggestions please email us at: arccommunications@kcl.ac.uk. We would love to hear from you!