

## Absorptive capacity in the adoption of innovations in healthcare: a scoping review protocol

### Rationale

Currently, there is a need to incorporate knowledge translation processes at the organizational and system level to enhance the adoption of new knowledge into practice.

### Implications

This paper will aid in informing organizations how absorptive capacity has been formed and evaluated in studies of innovation adoption in healthcare organizations.

**Link to protocol registration:** <https://osf.io/wfu58/>

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### Background

- Absorptive capacity is a set of routines and processes characterized by knowledge acquisition, assimilation, transformation and application. Absorptive capacity, a key concept in organizational learning theory, is thought to be critical to the adoption of new knowledge and innovations in organizations.

### Objective

- To examine how absorptive capacity has been conceptualized and measured in studies of innovation adoption in healthcare organizations.

### Methodology

- **Review design:** Scoping review (Our methodology is guided by the Joanna Briggs Institute Methods Manual for Scoping Reviews).
- **Eligibility criteria (PICO):**
  - **Participants:** Healthcare organizations
  - **Concept:** Absorptive capacity
  - **Context:** Studies that focus on healthcare organizations will be included. Healthcare is defined as the context which aims to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being and to facilitate reasonable access to health services without financial or other barriers. No limitations will be set for cultural/sub-cultural factors, or geographic location. Studies that investigate the absorptive capacity of business or other industry organizations will be excluded
- **Literature search:** Will be conducted by an experienced librarian. The following databases will be searched: MEDLINE, EMBASE, PsycINFO, CINAHL and Scopus
- **Study Selection/Data Abstraction:**
  - We plan to develop the study selection forms, and then perform a pilot test on approximately 50 citations/full-text articles
  - Reviewers will then independently screen title/abstract citations and full-text articles using proprietary software (Synthesi.SR) developed by the Knowledge Translation Program, St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto
  - We will abstract relevant data from all included studies
- **Synthesis:** The synthesis will focus on identifying and categorizing relevant studies that describe absorptive capacity or its dimensions with regard to the uptake of innovations.

### Knowledge Translation Strategy

- Our dissemination plan includes publications, presentations, website posting, and a stakeholder meeting.