

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.