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CANADA

Abstract Information

Title: Sustainment of innovations in cancer survivorship care

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Abstract

(250 word maximum)

Purpose: The poor sustainment of innovations means many patients do not benefit from the best possible care. This study sought to identify factors influencing sustainability and explore the processes that facilitate the sustainability of innovations in cancer survivorship care.

Methods: Informed by two sustainability frameworks, we conducted in-depth interviews with implementation leaders and relevant staff from across Canada involved in the implementation of a range of evidence-based innovations in cancer survivorship care (e.g., self-management tools, physical activity programs, and models of follow-up care). We purposively recruited participants to maximize variation in targeted population, innovation type, and geographic setting. Data were collected and analyzed concurrently, using constant comparative analysis. Data collection continued until theoretical saturation was reached. Findings were categorised according to determinants, processes, and implementation outcomes, and whether a factor was necessary to sustainability or important but not necessary.

Results: Twenty-seven participants from 25 unique cancer survivorship innovations based in six Canadian provinces participated in the study. Most, but not all, innovations were sustained in some form. Eight determinants, six processes, and three implementation outcomes were perceived to influence sustainability. The necessary determinants were (1) management support; (2) organizational and system-level priorities; (3) resources and (4) key people and expertise. Necessary processes were (5) innovation adaptation; (6) stakeholder engagement; and (7) ongoing education and training. The only necessary implementation outcome was (8) staff and organizational buy-in for the innovation.

Conclusions: These findings may be used by implementation teams to plan for sustainability from the beginning of innovation adoption initiatives.

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