

Resolving the rainbow of chaos: The value of participant-governed networks in implementing new evidence into practice

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Abstract

In the face of increasing demand for patient care and service quality combined with increasing levels of underfunding the UK National Health Service (NHS) is under pressure to find innovative ways to improve patient outcomes and provide efficiency. Different research has emerged suggesting the importance of 'evidence into practice' within healthcare networks, as one of the means of promoting efficient and effective healthcare. However, a review of extant literature indicates that little or no research has examined the value of participant-governed networks on the implementation of new evidence into practice within the English NHS. This study therefore draws on the theories of network and network governance to present an empirical evidence of how participant-governed networks influence the implementation of new evidence into practice. The study is one component of a large-scale, collaborative and longitudinal project examining the value of the West of England Academic Health Science Network (WEAHSN).

Keywords: Innovation, networks, governance, NHS