

Poster F21

Title: Innovating the discharge process for hospitalizations involving child abuse: An application of the Designing for Dissemination and Sustainability Framework (D4DSF)

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Background and Significance

Child abuse accounts for approximately 100,000 hospitalizations annually in the US. These hospitalizations typically involve injuries or conditions serious enough to necessitate admission, suspicious circumstances that warrant investigation for abuse, and unique post-discharge challenges such as complex multi-sector follow up needs and heightened risk for family disruption. Early intervention is critical and begins when children are transitioned from hospital to home environments,¹⁰ yet hospital discharge processes often follow standardized protocols that fail to take into account the special context surrounding this vulnerable population.

Purpose of Project

The purpose of this project was to integrate aspects of the Designing for Dissemination and Sustainability Framework (D4DSF) to inform development and pre-implementation context of an innovative discharge intervention tailored to the needs of pediatric hospitalizations involving abuse.

Details of the Innovation

Two D4DSF design process types were incorporated into this project: participatory design with participant engagement and contextual/situational analysis. The 7Ps Framework was used to identify key partners. Contextual/situational analysis included partner discovery conversations and shadowing with different multidisciplinary team members.

Outcomes

Twenty stakeholder discovery conversations, ranging 5 to 15 minutes, were completed with a sample of diverse disciplinary staff members including nurses (14), physicians (2), social workers (3), and researchers (1). Data surrounding roles, pains and gains, assumptions, uncertainties, and outcomes of interest were synthesized to inform next steps for intervention development.

Discussion

Early integration of a design framework such as the D4DSF offer opportunities to enhance a greater understanding of context within the development, implementation, dissemination, and sustainability of clinical and health service interventions. Findings from this project informed two research studies that received grant funding to finalize intervention components and an implementation strategy for the proposed intervention.

Keywords: D4DSF, hospital discharge, child abuse, pre-implementation