

BACKGROUND

The translation of knowledge into routine clinical practice is a slow and haphazard process. One common strategy to promote knowledge translation (KT) is the production of clinical guidance.

It is well known, however that the publication of guidance alone is unlikely to optimise practice.

In order to support the translation of national clinical guidance for dentistry in Scotland, TRiADS, a multidisciplinary research collaboration, developed a standardised KT framework embedded within the guidance development process.

AIM

To improve the quality of healthcare in Scotland through the development of a framework for the timely evaluation of the translation of national clinical guidance to establish the need for and choice of theoretically informed KT interventions.

METHODS

A diagnostic analysis process is undertaken at the start of each guidance development project.

Information is gathered about current practice. Key recommendations and associated behaviours are identified and prioritised. Stakeholder questionnaires and interviews are conducted to identify barriers and enablers.

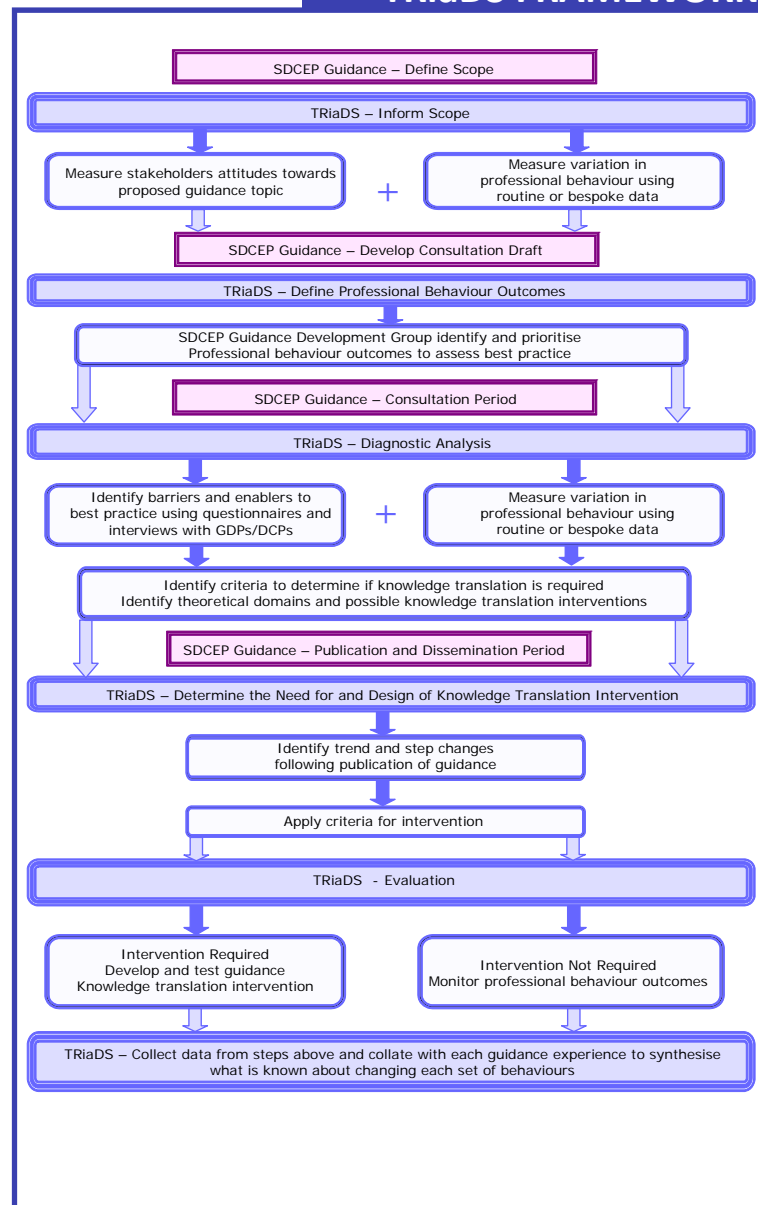
Where possible, routinely collected data are used to measure compliance with the guidance and to inform decisions about whether a KT intervention is required.

RESULTS

The TRiADS framework has been applied to eleven guidance projects. Findings have informed the guidance development process for all.

For three (decontamination, oral health assessment and drug prescribing) KT interventions have been informed by the diagnostic analysis and evaluated in randomised controlled trials embedded within routine service delivery.

TRiADS FRAMEWORK



CONCLUSIONS

The embedding of a KT framework within a national programme of guidance development offers a unique opportunity to inform and influence guidance development and knowledge translation.

The framework informs dental practitioners, policy-makers and patients on how best to translate national recommendations into routine clinical activities.

Whilst currently focused on dental guidance, this KT framework is generalisable across disciplines. Future work will explore its translation to other primary healthcare setting such as pharmacy and optometry.

