

# KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL-INVESTIGATORS

**No researcher wants to see their work sit on a shelf and not be used by those who could benefit from it.** Unfortunately, that's exactly what happens in most cases. An estimated 85% of research relevant to clinicians and patients is [wasted](#) and 30%-45% of patients don't receive [optimal care](#).

It's important to describe the potential impact of your research in your funding application; it's equally important to ask yourself — and tell the peer reviewers — **'How am I going to help get my research used?'** You can help by embedding knowledge translation (KT) throughout your funding application. KT is the broad range of activities aimed at increasing the use of health research evidence; **KT can look different at different stages of research and across different pillars.**

Below are examples of KT activities and resources to explore as you consider what KT activities make sense — and are doable — within the context of your research project/program. You may even want to look at what other research pillars are doing around KT to give you additional ideas or speak with your colleagues to see what KT activities they have found successful in their research work.

For those who want a better understanding of how to increase value and reduce waste in research, check out this series of papers in [The Lancet](#).

## KT for Health Professional-Investigators

Evidence suggests that research is more likely to be applied when it is done in consultation or collaboration with those who will use it. Health professional-investigators involved in clinical research are well placed to involve patients, clinicians, regulatory bodies, and policy makers.

Examples of KT in clinically focused research:

- Creating up-to-date systematic reviews or other syntheses of global evidence
- Communications/collaborations with researchers in other disciplines and pillars
- Consultation with biomedical researchers about the results of clinical trials
- Plain language summaries directed at mainstream media
- Consultation/collaboration with patients in the development of research questions

Health professional-investigators may also be involved in health services research. Research users may include policy makers, practitioners, patients, the public or other researchers. Health professional-investigators with a focus on health services are well placed to engage in [integrated KT](#), engaging research users as research team members.

Examples of KT in health services research:

- Engaging research users in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of research
- Connecting with policy makers
- Creating media releases
- Co-creating with research users KT products (videos, articles, reports, websites) designed to engage the public in the research products or results

Here are a few articles and resources that you might want to take a look at:

This article, [Knowledge translation of research findings](#), summarizes the five key questions to frame KT planning.

This [clinical guideline](#) on reducing pain during vaccine injections that was designed by a multi-disciplinary team of clinical researchers and clinicians.

This article, [Translating research findings to clinical nursing practice](#), interprets KT literature for translating clinical research into practice.

This [report](#) fully reviews terminology, frameworks and processes involved with knowledge translation.

This research paper [Translational research from bench to bedside](#) discusses strategies for bridging the gap between basic and clinical research.

The article, [Achieving research impact through co-creation in community-based health services](#), discusses strategies for community/academic partnerships.

This manual, a [Guide to knowledge translation planning at CIHR: Integrated and end-of-grant approaches](#), provides instruction and case examples.

This is a [KT planning](#) template designed to guide researchers through embedding knowledge translation into a research project.

This new article, [IKT guiding principles](#), was co-created by researchers, knowledge users and individuals with lived experience of spinal cord injury. Michael Smith Health Research BC was part of this study as a partner organization supporting researchers to do IKT.

This [blog post](#) looks at the importance of integrating Indigenous ways of knowing and health equity into KT approaches.