

Evaluating the effectiveness of a participatory intervention development and implementation to improve patient knowledge of their Advance Care Planning Engagement

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Background

Advance Care Planning (ACP) is reflection on and communication of future healthcare preferences (1). Without ACP, patients receive care that does not align with their wishes, resulting in worse quality of life. Loved ones suffer worse grief in bereavement (2). Patients are often ready to engage but are waiting to be approached by clinicians (3). However, there are low rates of ACP engagement between clinicians and Canadians (4).

ACP involves **3 steps**: Thinking Talking Documenting

The problem:
When ACP is done, patients are not aware that they have engaged or that they have engaged in the process.

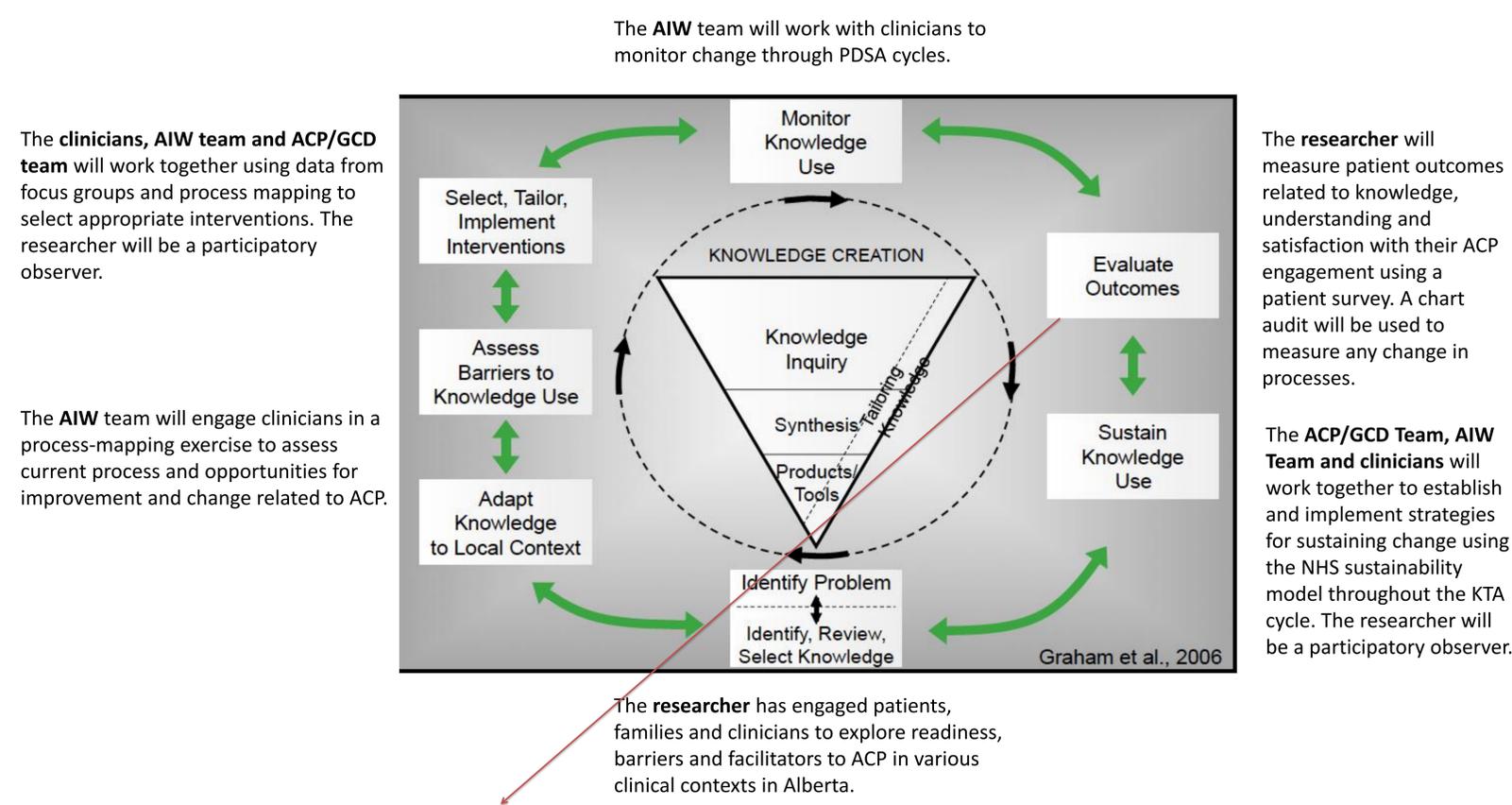
Study purpose: To improve patient understanding, knowledge and satisfaction with ACP engagement in an acute cardiac unit at the Foothill Medical Centre.

Method

This quasi-experimental design will employ a participatory mixed methods data collection. The study will be guided by Graham's Knowledge-To-Action Framework where the three teams will have unique roles in the design and implementation of the ACP intervention. The researcher will be a participatory observer and will evaluate the impact of the intervention on patient knowledge, understanding and satisfaction with ACP:

Project Teams	Role
ACP/GCD Team	This Alberta Health Services Team comprised of a social worker, nurse practitioners, a nurse educator and palliative care physician work to improve ACP practices within Alberta Health Services and the community through ongoing engagement with patients, their families and clinicians.
AHS Improvement Way Team (AIW)	This Quality Improvement Team works within Alberta Health Services to support quality improvement and team based projects in clinical teams.
Clinicians on Unit 81 of the Foothills Medical Centre	The clinicians will be active participants in identifying current processes, barriers and facilitators to ACP as well as selecting and implementing appropriate and relevant evidence-based interventions to improve processes with the goal of increasing patient knowledge, understanding and satisfaction with ACP.

The Knowledge-To-Action Cycle



Evaluating Outcomes	
Outcome	Patient knowledge (& understanding/satisfaction) with ACP measured by adapted patient survey on ACP and Goals of Care Designations.
Study Participants	All patients on unit 81 at FMC who have been admitted for 72 hours.
Data Collection	Patients participate in a nationally validated survey on ACP and agree to a chart audit of ACP documentation. Data will be collected for 5 weeks pre-intervention, during 3 months of intervention and for 5 weeks post intervention.
Data Analysis	Survey data and chart audit data will be analyzed using interrupted time series design.

Significance:

- Study goals and design informed directly from patient and family engagement.
- Potential to improve patient outcomes and quality of care through increased knowledge of their ACP engagement.
- Designed to utilize existing AHS services to maximize potential for sustainability.