

Using a logic model to plan a research project: A brief overview

A logic model is a means of graphically displaying the workflow and processes associated with a research proposal. Following is an example of a logic model developed to evaluate an intervention (Web Mentor) to assist medical providers to adopt a formal process for chronic pain management.

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes -- Impact		
	Activities	Participation	Short	Medium	Long
Community Care Leadership  Community care and Integrated Health Partnership Community Advisory Boards  Rural primary care providers  Colorado Medical Society	Convene provider focus groups Distribute electronic survey to rural providers	Rural providers, PI	Development of the Web Mentor program Training of mentors	Implementation of Web Mentor program Practice transformation leading to adoption of chronic pain management guideline processes Baseline provider assessment of chronic pain management	Documentation of chronic pain management guideline processes Improvement in provider confidence and skill in managing chronic pain and opioid prescribing

Advantages of employing a logic model to assist in the development of a research proposal include:

- 1) Team participation in the development of the research proposal
- 2) Identification of short-term and long term project aims
- 3) Logical representation of major processes and activities
- 4) Visual framework from which to continuously evaluate the research proposal during its development