

Map2Adapt: A Roadmap to Plan for Adaptations

Plenary Address by Julia E. Moore, PhD

Pragmatic research answers the question, “Does it work in typical clinical care settings?” Ultimately, the goal of pragmatic research is to inform the implementation, spread, and scale of evidence in clinical settings to improve patient outcomes. There has been an increasing recognition that adaptations are the reality when implementing interventions in clinical settings. This change has been accompanied by a rapidly growing body of research on adaptations, which has accelerated in response to environmental demands from COVID-19. Unfortunately, this growing evidence base is not yet ready for use by the people responsible for leading change in organizations. In an effort to bridge this gap between the research on adaptations and the practice of adaptations in clinical settings, we developed a practical roadmap, Map2Adapt, to guide decision-making and planning for adaptations. Map2Adapt is a practical tool that highlights key concepts of adaptations and identifies strategies to systematically approach adaptations by applying existing literature that have exemplified ways to categorize and document adaptations in interventions, programs, or policies. Map2Adapt can be used collaboratively by pragmatic researchers and implementers to understand, plan for, track, and evaluate the impact of adaptations. This workshop will illustrate how pragmatic researchers, implementation scientists, and implementers can work collaboratively to better plan for adaptations.

Learning Objectives:

1. Provide concrete and practical guidance to bridge the gap between adaptations in research and adaptations in practice
2. Describe key concepts related to adaptations
3. Use strategies to systematically approach adaptations
4. Classify different types of adaptations and the reasons for making those adaptations

Thought Questions

1. How do you navigate questions from stakeholder pushing for adaptations or fidelity?
2. How can you better plan for adaptations?
3. What are potential ways to embed equity into decision-making for adaptations?

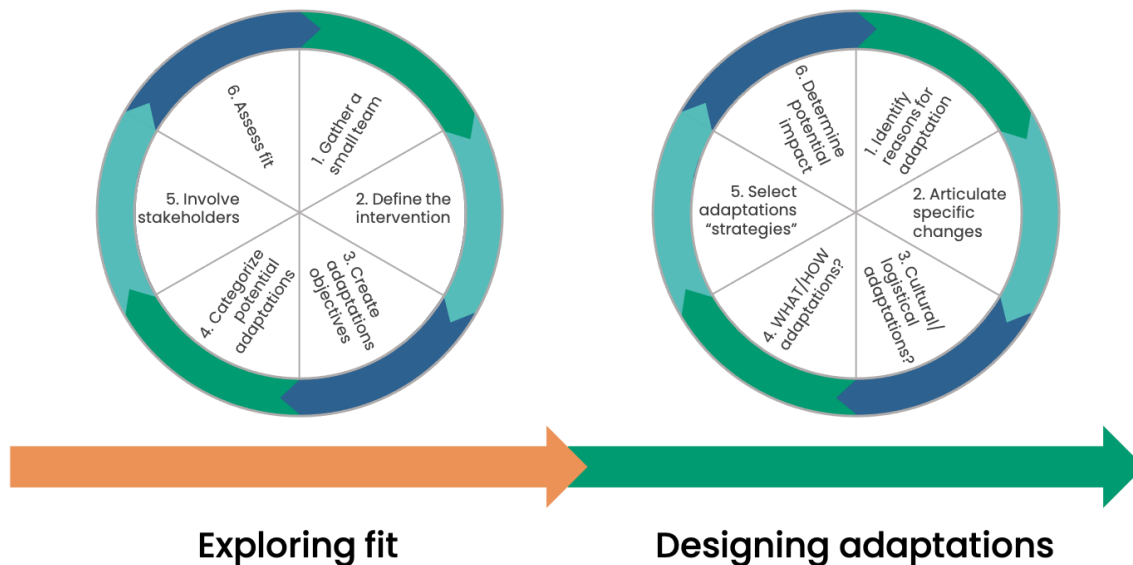


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Adaptations refer to changes that are made to an intervention in order to increase its relevance or fit to a given context (Kirk, 2020). The purpose of adaptations is to enhance fit and feasibility of implementing programs and practices, improve implementation outcomes, increase relevance of implementation strategies, as well as sustain interventions over time (Kirk, 2020). There is existing evidence to support how adaptations lead to better outcomes than interventions that are not tailored to a setting or population. Although, positive outcomes are not assured. There are many other factors embedded in the adaptation process that can impact the level and quality of outcomes, along with impact. For this reason, we focus on systematically approaching the planning and decision-making that goes into adaptations. The nature of adaptations calls for the application of implementation theory, models, frameworks, and approaches. Using implementation theory, models, frameworks, and approaches can help make adaptations more systematic, intentional and maintain responsiveness to the needs of a project.

To that end, we developed Map2Adapt. Map2Adapt is a process model that was created based on other existing adaptation frameworks. The idea behind the Map2Adapt is to provide a practical roadmap that can guide practitioners in making adaptations during the early phases of the project. It includes two phases: (1) exploring fit; and (2) designing adaptations. Within each phase, there are activities that can help guide your adaptations by considering different levels related to your intervention. Emphasis is placed on stakeholder engagement, as well as using adaptation frameworks to identify the WHAT and HOW of your intervention, adaptation objectives, and categorize potential adaptations by multiple ecological levels.



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[Notes]

