

Title

Process evaluation of scale up of care for hypertension and diabetes in Belgium, Slovenia and Cambodia (the SCUBY project): A study protocol

Authors

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Abstract

Background: Effective integrated care interventions for hypertension (HT) and type 2 diabetes (T2D) exist and need to be scaled-up. The 'Scale-Up diaBetes and hYpertension care' SCUBY project aims to facilitate scale-up of integrated care for HT and T2D through the development, implementation, and evaluation of contextualised scale-up roadmap in Cambodia, Slovenia and Belgium. The aim of this evaluation protocol is to describe the plan for the process and scale-up evaluation of the SCUBY project, including the development, adoption and implementation of the roadmaps. The specific goals of the process evaluation are to (i) analyse how the reality of scale-up adheres to the developed roadmaps and (ii) assess how the differing contexts can influence the implementation process of the scale-up strategies.

Methods: A comprehensive frame was developed to include context, process, scale-up and impact evaluation and is embedded in implementation and political theory. Three contextual roadmaps, one for each country are implemented and evaluated, to guide the scale-up of Integrative Care Package (ICP). A diverse range of mostly qualitative tools – including a policy dialogue reporting form, a stakeholder follow-up interview and survey, project diaries and policy mapping – will be used to assess how stakeholders perceive the scale-up implementation process and adaptations to the roadmap. Key implementation outcomes include acceptability, feasibility relevance, adaptation, adoption and cost of roadmap activities. The role of context will remain relevant, and barriers and facilitators to scale-up will be continuously assessed.

Conclusions: The SCUBY project presents a comprehensive framework to guide the evaluation of scale up of complex interventions. We have described the three contextualised roadmaps, for Belgium, Slovenia and Cambodia, each adopting their own (horizontal/diversification/vertical) scale-up strategy(ies), which could be applicable and beneficial to researchers and policymakers in similar contexts.

Main messages:

- Process evaluation is needed to keep track of complex interventions including scale up.
- The SCUBY project develops a plan for adoption and implementation of a contextualized roadmap to guide the scale up of ICP for HT and T2D.=