



# Successful Integrated Knowledge Translation from the Perspective of Diverse Knowledge Users: An Exploratory Study

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In integrated Knowledge Translation (iKT), stakeholders or potential research knowledge users are engaged in the entire research process. By doing iKT, researchers and research users work together to shape the research process by collaborating to determine the research questions, decide on the methods, inform data collection approaches and tool development, interpret the findings, and help with sharing the research results. (Canadian Institutes of Health Research)

## What is this research about?

Researchers will find out how knowledge user partners in research teams prefer to be involved in the research process as well as the best ways to keep them participating. The aim of this mixed methods study is to identify the most effective ways to partner in research with knowledge users to achieve the common goal of improving health services for adults with multiple chronic conditions (MCC).

## How will the researchers get their findings?

Knowledge users including patients and their families, health professionals, health system decision-makers, researchers and students, will be asked these five questions:

- What do knowledge users perceive as “optimal engagement” as part of a research team?
- What are the perceptions of knowledge users about how to best facilitate sustained engagement?
- What are the perceptions of knowledge users about ways to facilitate exchange of knowledge and expertise?
- What does successful knowledge uptake (use) look like in relation to knowledge users’ work with ACHRU?
- What are knowledge users’ experiences in engagement in the ACHRU research team?

## What do the researchers expect to find?

The researchers expect to find differences in levels engagement and effective strategies across the various ACHRU studies, stages of research, and knowledge user groups. We expect to gain insight into what has worked well, as well as strategies for refining engagement and knowledge exchange within ACHRU’s program of research.

## Why is there a need for this research?

Despite increasing recognition of the importance of patient, caregiver, and provider engagement in health services research, as well as research-policy partnerships, little is known about the exchange process and its impact. Measuring the impact is a priority yet different impacts are important for different knowledge user groups. This research builds on existing research to explore ACHRU knowledge users’ perceptions of factors influencing engagement, knowledge exchange and uptake, and impact.

## About the ACHRU

The Aging, Community and Health Research Unit (ACHRU) is supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). ACHRU Researchers work together with older adults with MCC and their family caregivers, agencies, policy and decision-makers, and clinicians to promote optimal aging at home. The ACHRU designs and evaluates new and innovative community-based healthcare interventions to improve access to healthcare and quality of life. Studies focus on the prevention and management of MCC, for seniors who have dementia, depression, diabetes and/or stroke.