

CLAHRC BITE

A summary of a piece of NIHR CLAHRC East Midlands research | Brokering Innovation Through Evidence

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Knowledge brokers are ideally placed to bridge the 'know-do' gap between research and practice

Who needs to know?

Research teams, practitioners, CLAHRC partners.

What have we found?

- Bridging the 'know-do' or research-practice gap relies on interpersonal connections; knowledge brokers do this.
- Knowledge brokers are people or organisations that create connections between individuals and groups; they are involved in the co-design and implementation of applied health research
- Knowledge brokers help to transform research knowledge so it can be used to make a real-world impact.

**"Healthier living
for longer"**

Findings and implications

- Knowledge brokers operate at the interface of research and practice.
- Other terms used to describe the role include: clinical champion, critical friend, intermediary, research translator, diffusion fellow.
- Knowledge brokers are interpreters and communicators; they can offer know-how, know-why and know-who types of knowledge that can be valuable in closing the research to practice gap.
- This can include knowledge about the inner workings, implicit rules, cultures and realities of everyday work in health and social care.
- The relationship between knowledge brokers and research teams is described as a form of linkage and exchange, and depends on trust and a shared understanding.
- Knowledge brokers assist in developing and maintaining the interactions between people in order to close the research to practice gap.
- Knowledge brokers and research teams should work together to deliver actionable messages about real world implementation.

The Evidence

Lomas, J. (2007) The in-between world of knowledge brokering, *British Medical Journal*, 334:129-132. DOI: 10.1136/bmj.30938.593380.AE

Meyer, M. (2010) The rise of the knowledge broker, *Science Communication*, 32(1):118-127. DOI: 10.1177/1075547009359797

Ward, V. et al., (2009) Knowledge brokering: the missing link in the evidence to action chain? *Evidence and Policy*, 5(3):267-279. DOI:10.1332/174426409X463811



What is CLAHRC?

The National Institute for Health Research Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (NIHR CLAHRC) East Midlands is a partnership between university, NHS, industry, third sector and public partners across the region.

We are one of 13 English CLAHRCs funded by the NIHR. Our mission is to undertake high quality applied research into mental health, chronic disease, care of older people and stroke survivors and the implementation of evidence to improve services and patient care across the region, and achieve "Healthier living for longer".

This is a summary of a piece of CLAHRC research. The BITE (Brokering Innovation Through Evidence) series is designed to make research more available to clinicians and patients.

Our website

www.clahrc-em.nihr.ac.uk

Useful resources

<http://tinyurl.com/CLAHRC-implementation>

Contact us

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