

# Behaviour Change Theory

Choosing Wisely project September 2018



## **Objectives**

Context

Peninsula Health are part of Safer Care Victoria's Choosing Wisely project, and will be aiming to reduce the ordering of CT lumbar-spines (non-trauma), among other low-value interventions.

Trigger

An early steering committee meeting recognised that behaviour change is at the heart of this project, and that a good understanding of behaviour change theory will be key.

Question

How can we incorporate behaviour change theory into the design of our interventions to increase the likelihood of our target behaviours being adopted?

## The purpose of this document is to:



- Introduce an evidence-based framework to design behaviour change interventions
- Propose an approach to diagnose the current ordering behaviours
- Propose an approach to select and design appropriate behaviour change techniques

This document is for discussion and should guide planning for the our Choosing Wisely initiatives.



## **Contents**

## 1. Current best practice

- 2. Understanding behaviour
- 3. Designing interventions
- 4. Proposed next steps



# Behaviour change theory has already been used to address ordering of imaging for low back pain by GPs in Victoria

## French et al. Implementation Science, 2012

French et al. Implementation Science 2012, 7:38



### METHODOLOGY

Onen Access

Developing theory-informed behaviour change interventions to implement evidence into practice: a systematic approach using the Theoretical Domains Framework

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### Abstrac

Background: There is little systematic operational guidance about how best to develop complex interventions to reduce the gap between practice and evidence. This article is one in a Series of articles documenting the development and use of the "Heoretical Domains Framework (IDF) to advance the science of implementation

Methods: The intervention was developed considering three main components theory, evidence, and practical issues We used a four-step approach, consisting of guiding question, to direct the choice of the most appropriate components of an implementation intervention: Who needs to do what, differently? Using a theoretical framework which barriers and enables need to be addressed? Which intervention components (behaviour change techniques behaviour change to be addressed? Which intervention components (behaviour change techniques behaviour change be measured and undestood?

Results: A complex implementation intervention was designed that aimed to improve acute low back pain management in primary care. We used the TDF to identify the barriers and enables to the uptake of evidence into practice and to guide the choice of intervention components. These components were then combined into a conservation. The intervention was delivered via two facilitated interactive small group workshops, We also produced a DVD to distribute to all participants in the intervention group. We chose outcome measures in order to assess the mediating mechanisms of behaviour change.

Conclusions: We have illustrated a four-step systematic method for developing an intervention designed to change clinical practice based on a theoretical famework. The method of development provides a systematic framework that could be used by others developing complex implementation interventions. While this famework should be teartably adjusted and neffend to suit other contexts and estrings, we believe that the four-step process should be maintained as the primary famework to guide researchers through a comprehensive intervention development crocess is

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Barriers to, and enablers of, the [...] target behaviours were identified in a qualitative study consisting of **focus group interviews with 42 GPs in Victoria** 

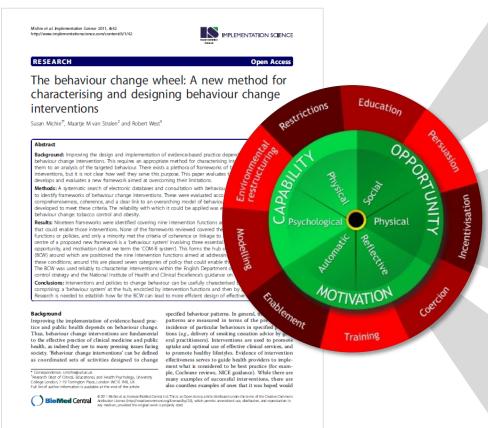
We used the [behaviour change framework] to **identify the barriers** and enablers to the uptake of evidence into practice and to guide the choice of intervention components. These components were then combined into a cohesive intervention.

We have illustrated a four-step systematic method for developing an **intervention designed to change clinical practice** based on a theoretical framework



## The Behaviour Change Wheel is considered the current best practice in designing behaviour change interventions

Michie et al. Implementation Science, 2011



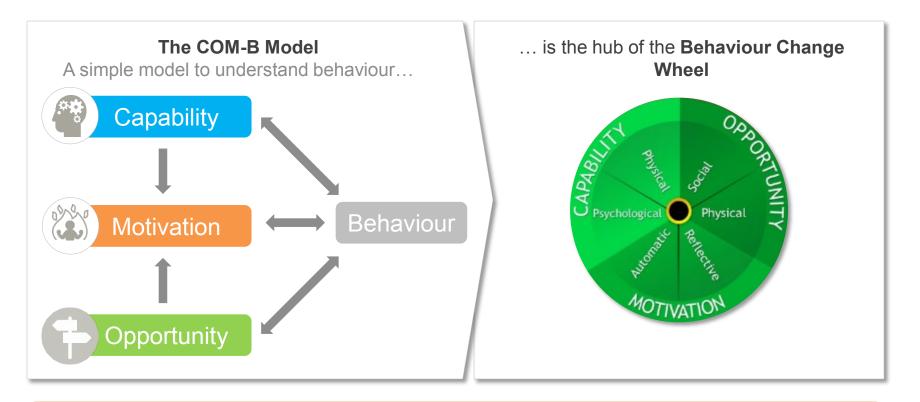
Based on a 2011 Systematic review – the BCW incorporates elements of **19 behaviour** change frameworks into a single comprehensive and coherent tool, linked to an overarching model of behaviour<sup>1</sup>

It links identified sources of behaviour to appropriate intervention functions, in order to guide the selection of behaviour change techniques (BCTs) and the design of effective interventions

It has been used to design a variety of behaviour change interventions, such as the adoption of the Sepsis Six bundle<sup>2</sup>, and the reduction of x-ray referring for non-specific low back pain by GPs<sup>3</sup>



## At its core, the BCW model identifies capability, opportunity and motivation as the main drivers of behaviour



The COM-B framework can be used in surveys, interviews, focus group discussions to "diagnose" behaviour



## The COM-B model can be expanded to explore drivers in further detail



## **COM-B** components

Physical capability physical skill

## **Psychological capability**

The capacity to engage in the necessary thought processes - comprehension, reasoning

### **Reflective motivation**

Beliefs about what is good and bad, conscious intentions, decisions and plans

### **Automatic motivation**

Emotional responses, desires, impulses and habits resulting from associative learning and physiological states

## **Physical opportunity**

Opportunity afforded by the environment

## **Social opportunity**

Opportunity afforded by the cultural milieu that dictates the way that we think about things

### **Theoretical Domains Framework**

- Physical skills
- Knowledge
- Cognitive and interpersonal skills
- Memory, attention and decision processes
- Behavioural regulation
- Professional/social role and identity
- Beliefs about capabilities
- Optimism
- Beliefs about consequences
- Intentions
- Goals
- Reinforcement
- Emotion
- Environmental context and resources
- Social influences



# A table of intervention functions then guides the selection of interventions for each driver of behaviour

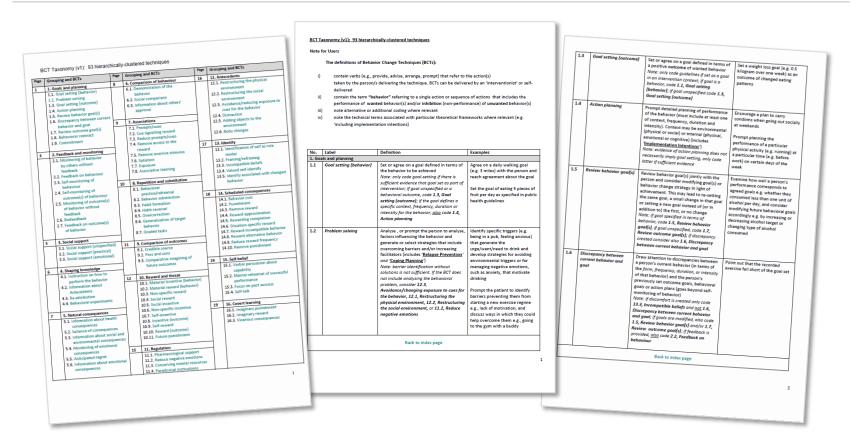
	Intervention functions			Effective intervention functions						
Drivers of behaviour		Education	Persuasion	Incentivisation	Coercion	Training	Restriction	Environmental restructuring	Modelling	Enablement
Canability	Physical					✓				✓
Capability	Psychological	✓				✓				✓
On a sutremitter	Physical						✓	✓		✓
Opportunity	Social						✓	✓		✓
	Automatic		✓ _	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Motivation	Reflective	✓	✓	<b>√</b>	✓					

Once the causes of the current behaviour are understood, this table helps ensure **the most effective**intervention functions are selected



# A taxonomy of 93 behaviour change techniques (BCT) provides details and examples for each intervention function

BCT Taxonomy (v1): 93 hierarchically-clustered techniques



### **Selecting interventions** Characterising behaviour Intervention COM-B **TDF BCT Taxonomy functions Physical** Training **Training:** Physical skills capability Enablement Most frequently used Knowledge Education **BCTs** Cognitive and Training Demonstration of interpersonal the behaviour skills Instruction on how Psycho-**Capability** Memory, to perform a logical attention and behaviour capability Enablement decision Feedback on the processes behaviour Behavioural Feedback on regulation outcome(s) of Education Professional behaviour /social role and Persuasion Self-monitoring of identity Incentivisation behaviour Beliefs about Behavioural Reflective capabilities practice/rehearsal Optimism motivation Beliefs about Coercion Less frequently used consequences **BCTs Motivation** Intentions Biofeedback Goals Self-monitoring of Persuasion

- outcome(s) of behaviour
- Habit formation
- Habit reversal
- Graded tasks
- Behavioural experiments
- Mental rehearsal of successful performance
- Self-talk
- Self-reward

## **Demonstration of the** behaviour:

Provide an observable sample of the performance of the behaviour, directly in person or indirectly e.g. via film, pictures, for the person to aspire to or imitate (includes 'Modelling').

Note: if advised to practice, also code, 8.1. Behavioural practice and rehearsal; If provided with instructions on how to perform, also code 4.1, Instruction on how to perform the behaviour

## Example:

Demonstrate to nurses how to raise the issue of excessive drinking with patients via a roleplay exercise

**Opportunity** 

**Physical** opportunity

**Automatic** 

motivation

Social opportunity

Environmental context and resources

Reinforcement

Emotion

Social

influences

Environmental restructuring

Enablement

Incentivisation

Environmental

restructuring

Enablement

Restriction

Coercion

Modelling

## Multiple modes of delivery can be considered for each BCT

## Modes of BCT delivery

Face-to-face	Individual Group			
	Population-level		TV	
		Broadcast media	Radio	
			Overhead announcement	
		Digital media	Internet	
			Mobile phone app	
		Print media	Newspaper	
Distance			Leaflet	
			Newsletter	
		Outdoor media	Billboard	
			Poster	
	Individual-level	Phone	Phone helpline	
			Mobile phone text	
		Individually accessed computer programme		



# Selected behaviour change techniques should be evaluated against the APEASE criteria

- Affordability
- Practicability
- Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness
- Acceptability
- ✓ Side-effects/safety
- Equity



## Recap: A solid behaviour change intervention will follow 3 stages

Stages and steps in the design of effective behaviour change interventions



## Understand the behaviour



- Define the problem in behavioural terms
- Select & specify the target behaviour
- Using the COM-B model, identify what needs to change



## Identify intervention options



- Using the Behaviour Change Wheel, identify intervention functions
- Assess their feasibility using the APEASE criteria



## Identify content and implementation options



- Using the BCW, select behaviour change techniques from the BCT Taxonomy for each intervention function
- Design content
- Choose appropriate mode of delivery



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# The first step in diagnosing behaviour is defining the problem in behavioural terms

Questions to ask

What is the problem behaviour?

Where does the behaviour occur?

Who is involved in performing the behaviour?



## Next, we need to select the desired, target behaviour(s)

What target behaviours could bring about the desired outcome?

## Prioritise the behaviours by considering the following criteria:

- How much of an impact changing the behaviour will have on desired outcome
- How likely it is that the behaviour can be changed (when considering likelihood of change being achieved, think about the capability, opportunity and motivation to change of those performing the behaviour)
- 3. How likely it is that the behaviour (or group of behaviours) will have a positive or negative impact on other, related behaviours
- 4. How easy it will be to measure the behaviour



## It's important to describe the target behaviour clearly by specifying it

## Target behaviour

Who needs to perform the behaviour?	
What do they need to do differently to achieve the desired change?	
When do they need to do it?	
Where do they need to do it?	
How often do they need to do it?	
With whom do they need to do it?	

Describe the target behaviour according to who, needs to do what, when, where, how often and with whom



## Next, we need to understand what components of behaviour need to change

Qualitative methods (surveys, interviews, focus group discussions) following the questionnaire below can be used

"In order to regularly ..., I would have to ..."

Capability	
Statement	Example
Know more about why it was important	Have a better understanding of the benefits of stopping smoking
Know more about how to do it	Have a better understanding of effective ways to lose weight
Have better physical skills	Learn how to operate machinery more effectively in one's job
Have better mental skills	Learn how to reason more effectively
Have more physical strength	Build up muscles for physically demanding physical work
Have more mental strength	Develop stronger resilience against cravings
Overcome physical limitations	Get around problems of stature or disability
Overcome mental obstacles	Reduce unwanted urges or feelings
Have more physical stamina	Develop greater capacity to maintain physical effort
Have more mental stamina	Develop greater capacity to maintain mental effort

Opportunity	
Statement	Example
Have more time to do it	Create dedicated time during the day
Have more money	Be given or earn funds to support the behaviour
Have the necessary materials	Acquire better tools for the job
Have it more easily accessible	Provide easier access to facilities
Have more people around them doing it	Be part of a "crowd" who are doing it
Have more triggers to prompt them	Have more reminders at strategic times
Have more support from others	Have one's family or friends behind one

Motivation	
Statement	Example
Feel that you want to do it enough	Feel more of a sense of pleasure or satisfaction from doing it
Feel that you need to do it enough	Care more about the negative consequences of nor doing it
Believe that it would be a good thing to do	Have a stronger sense that one should do it
Develop better plans for doing it	Have clearer and better developed plans for achieving it
Develop a habit of doing it	Get into a pattern of doing it without having to think
Something else (please specify)	

The BCW encourages **modification of the questionnaire** to ensure the target behaviour is addressed specifically

# Conjoint analysis can be used to gauge the relative contributions of each component of behaviour

Mock-up of a pairwise ranking question – 1000 minds online software

In order to reduce my ordering of CT lumbar spine for non-trauma low back pain, I would need to ... Have a better understanding Know more about radiation of alternative ways of doses in CT scans diagnosing low back pain this one this one they are equal << undo last decision Skip this decision for now >>

## Rankings can be produced identifying what needs to change, and focus group discussions can enrich the picture

Mock-up of a pairwise ranking results, relative importance



# Based on the results of the questionnaire and/or focus group discussions, a behavioural diagnosis can be made

COM-B Components	What needs to happen for the target behaviour to occur?	Is there a need for change?
Physical capability		
Psychological capability		
Physical opportunity		
Social opportunity		
Reflective motivation		
Automatic motivation		

Behavioural diagnosis of the relevant COM-B components:

N.B. The **TDF domains** can be added for further detail



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## Once the major components of behaviour are understood, the BCW can be used to select the best intervention functions

Candidate intervention functions	<b>Evaluation of fit –</b> are they recommended by the intervention table? Do they meet the APEASE criteria?	function
Education		
Persuasion		
Incentivisation		
Coercion		
Training		
Restriction		
Environmental restructuring		
Modelling		
Enablement		
Selected intervention function	s:	

# The BCW can then be used to select behaviour change techniques from the BCT Taxonomy, for each intervention function

Selected Intervention functions	Selected Behaviour Change Techniques	Feasibility assessment (do they meet the APEASE criteria?)



## Consider the best mode of delivery for each BCT selected

Selected Behaviour Change Techniques	Mode of delivery	Feasibility assessment (do they meet the APEASE criteria?)

## A solid intervention plan will describe technique, mode, and content to address each identified barrier/enabler

What needs to change?	TDF domain	Potential interventions (technique, mode, content)
GPs' perceptions of patients' expectations and of patients' beliefs about	Knowledge (patient)	<ul> <li>Technique: Information provision (directed at patient)</li> </ul>
		■ <i>Mode</i> : Patient handout
consequences		<ul> <li>Content: Handout contains lay language about key messages from the guideline [33]; GPs encouraged to give patients with acute LBP the handouts to reinforce verbal advice</li> </ul>
Attitudes towards	1. Beliefs	<ul> <li>Techniques: Information provision; Persuasive communication</li> </ul>
managing patients without x-ray, based on perceived	about consequences 2. Knowledge (GP)	<ul> <li>Mode: Facilitated workshop; DVD</li> </ul>
consequences of the		■ Content:
behaviour, e.g. fear of missing underlying pathology and belief that patient will feel reassured with an x-ray		<ul> <li>Highly respected senior clinician presents persuasive message about harms (harmful amounts of unnecessary radiation) and limited benefits (poor diagnostic utility) of x-ray for LBP</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>GPs provide examples of when important underlying pathology was missed due to absence of x-ray of LBP episode, giving opportunity forexpert to discuss this case and demonstrate that x-ray wasn't required.</li> </ul>
Perceived need to give the patient something to replace x-ray	Skills	<ul> <li>Techniques: Provide instruction and modelling to increase a competing behaviour</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Mode: Facilitated workshop; DVD</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>Content: Instruct, model/role-play and create a script to facilitate the competing behaviour of prescribing an activity log for patients (rather than giving x-ray referral).</li> </ul>

