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KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION PROGRAM

Rapid Reviews to Strengthen Health Policy and Systems

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Conflict of interest

Research institute received funding from the WHO to create the Practical Guide. No other competing interests.

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Webinar objectives

- Discuss different repaid review methods

- Describe how to engage knowledge users in the conduct of rapid

  reviews

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RAPID REVIEW METHODS

Rapid review methods

Review step	Common streamlined methods	Related Evidence
Literature search	Search more than one database for published studies only, use date and language search limits	-
Study selection	Conducted by one reviewer, with or without verification	Single-reviewer screening of titles/abstracts missed on average 8%–20% of eligible studies but substantially reduced screening time relative to screening by two reviewers.
Data abstraction	One reviewer abstracts, with or without verification	Compared with dual data abstraction, single abstraction with verification resulted in more errors but saved time. However, the errors did not cause major changes in the effect estimates.
Quality assessment	One reviewer assesses, with or without verification	-

The evidence-base supporting streamlined methods is limited and evolving, and we need further evidence to define robust approaches.

Edwards et al. (2002); Glasziou et al. (2002); Shemilt et al. (2016); Buscemi et al. (2006)

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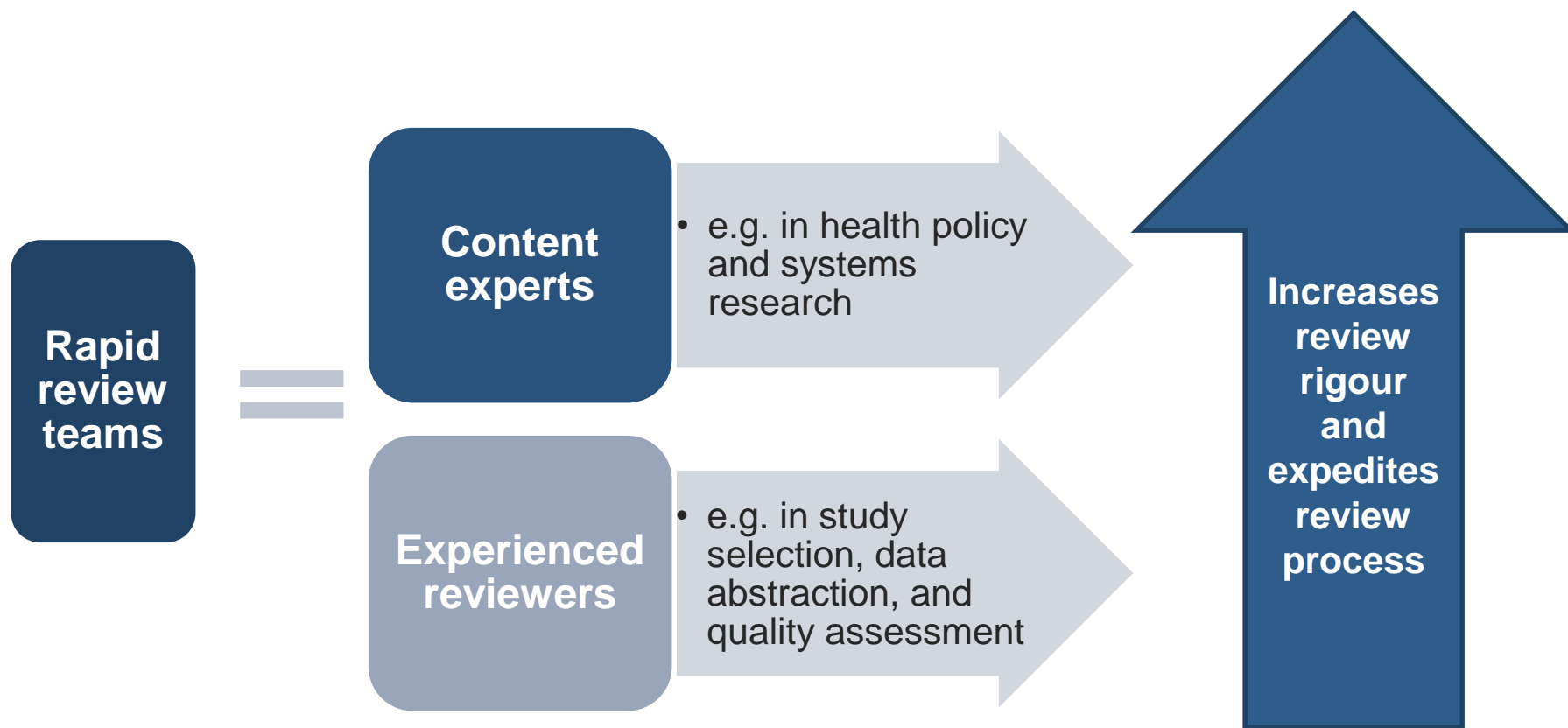Inspired Care. Inspiring Science.

Recommendation #1

Rapid review teams should consider including content experts and experienced reviewers to increase review rigour and expedite the review process.

Rapid review teams

Rapid review teams =

Content experts → • e.g. in health policy and systems research

Experienced reviewers → • e.g. in study selection, data abstraction, and quality assessment

Increases review rigour and expedites review process
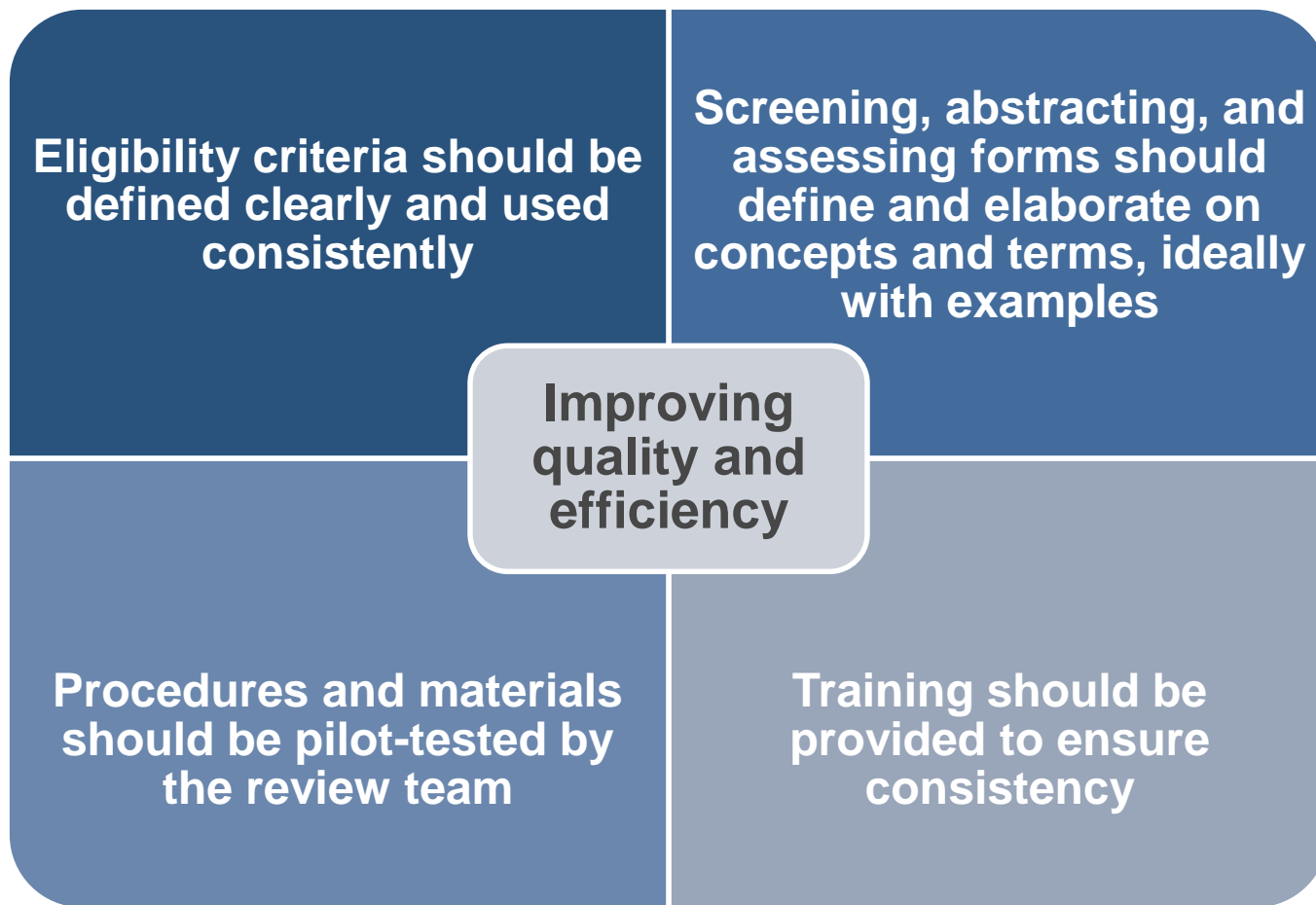
Recommendation #2

Well-defined eligibility criteria, explanation and elaboration forms, pilot-tests and reviewer training are recommended to support support reviewers in study selection, data abstraction, and quality assessment.

Clarity and training

Eligibility criteria should be defined clearly and used consistently

Screening, abstracting, and assessing forms should define and elaborate on concepts and terms, ideally with examples

Improving quality and efficiency

Procedures and materials should be pilot-tested by the review team

Training should be provided to ensure consistency

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Recommendation #3

Authors of the studies included in the rapid review should be consulted to gather further information on methods conduct, if time allows.
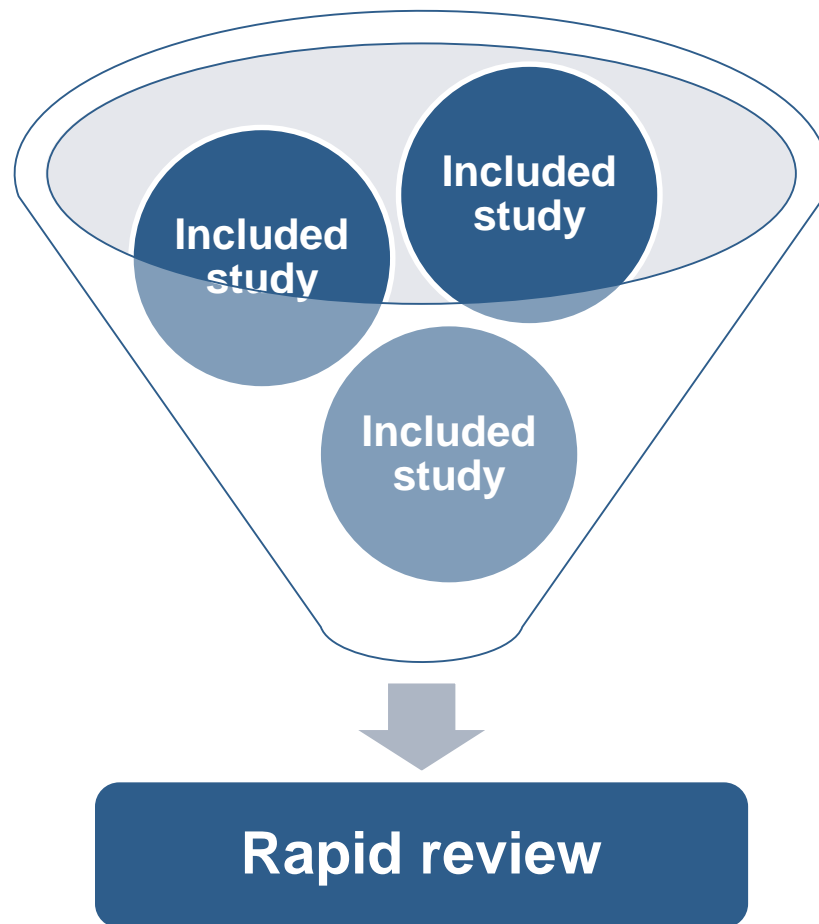
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Consulting authors of included studies

Authors of the studies included in the rapid review should be consulted to gather further information on methods conduct, if time allows.

Included study

Included study

Included study

Rapid review

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ENGAGING KNOWLEDGE USERS IN RAPID REVIEWS

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Knowledge user

"A knowledge user is defined as an individual who is likely to be able to use research results to make informed decisions about health policies, programs and/or practices"

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Recommendation #1

Knowledge users (including policy-makers and health systems managers) should be engaged during the conduct of rapid reviews to enhance the relevance and applicability of the reviews in the decision-making process.

The balance of engagement

There is opportunity to engage knowledge users throughout the review

Such integrated knowledge user engagement necessitates additional time and resources

Recommendation #2

The level of engagement should be meaningful, yet tailored to available resources, and will depend on the objectives of engagement, the points at which engagement occurs in the review process, and the methods used for engagement.

Level of engagement

ONE-TIME
CONSULTATION

MORE THAN 1
CONSULTATION

CONSULTATION
AT EVERY STEP

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Objectives of engagement

to establish a research agenda

to prioritize indicators

to develop a framework

to establish learning materials to be included in a curriculum

to establish clinical, policy, or system recommendations

to develop a tool kit to support evidence use

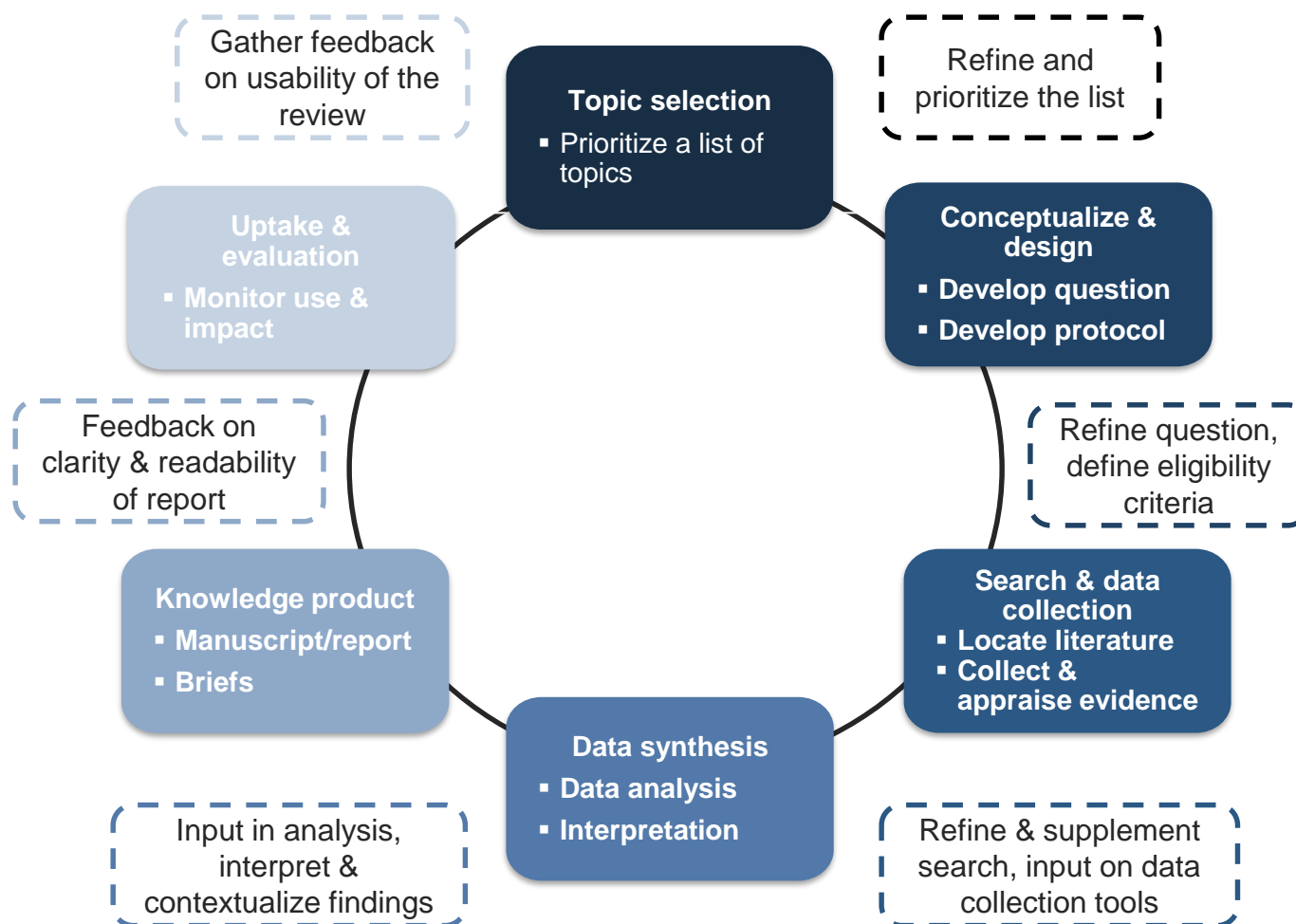to finalize knowledge translation and uptake strategies

to aid decision-makers in their decision-making processes

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Points of engagement

Keown et al. (2008); Tricco et al. (2016); Guise et al. (2013)

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Methods of engagement

- In-person/telephone meetings
- Email communications
- Document sharing and feedback
- Surveys, focus groups, interviews
- Workshops, webinars, educational rounds
- Nominal group techniques, Delphi

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Recommendation #3

Conceptual frameworks are available to help provide a structure and mechanism to facilitate engagement.

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Example frameworks for engagement

Framework for effective engagement in comparative effectiveness research

- Deverka, 2012
- Gathering professional/patient experience/values
- Using quantitative/qualitative methods to gather input
- Decision-making based on engagement
- Enhancing the usefulness of evidence for a decision

Framework for engaging policy-makers in health policy and systems research

- Oliver & Dickson, 2016
- Gathering policy-maker input and building a relationship
- Increasing policy-maker awareness and skills
- Obtaining stable funding, training and support to address queries
- Building a team experienced with decision-making

Deverka et al. (2012); Oliver & Dickson (2016)

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Other recommendations

Other things to consider when engaging knowledge users include: establishing early partnerships, planning ahead, communicating expectations and responsibility clearly, ongoing training and support, accessibility, and documentation of all interactions.

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GESI CENTRE EXPERIENCE

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

Question #1

In which steps of a rapid review have you (or your team) engaged knowledge users? (Please select all that apply)

a. Conceptualization and design

b. Literature search and study selection

c. Data collection and synthesis

d. Knowledge product development

Question #2

What methods have you (or your team) used to streamline the review process? (Please select all that apply)

a. Limit search by date and/or language

b. Limit the number of databases searched

c. Use one reviewer to perform study selection

d. Narratively synthesize results

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Thank you for your participation!

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