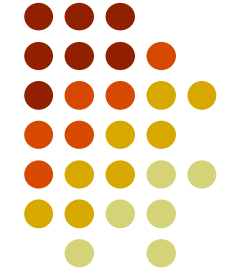


Adopting a realist review approach to conceptualizing the implementability of clinical practice guidelines

Elizabeth Estey, M.A.
Research Coordinator,
Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St.
Michael's Hospital
Toronto, Canada

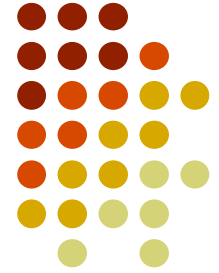


KT Canada Collaborators



- Onil Bhattacharyya
- Monika Kastner
- Laure Perrier
- Sharon Straus
- Merrick Zwarenstein
- Jeremy Grimshaw
- Andreas Laupacis
- Ian Graham

Outline



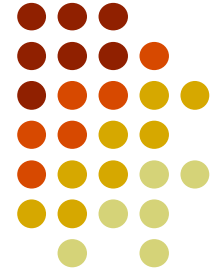
- Background
- Methods – Realist Review
- Preliminary Results
- Next steps
- Conclusions

Background

Guideline implementation



Guideline Implementation



Problem

- Clinical practice guidelines are inconsistently used
- Quality improvement interventions have variable costs and impact

Solution

- Make guidelines easier to use
- Modify the guideline itself
- Potentially highly cost-effective



Implementability

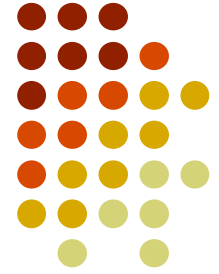
“A set of characteristics that predict the relative ease of implementation of guideline recommendations” (Shiffman et al., 2005)

- Under-theorized concept
- Previous work has focused on the medical literature
- Many other disciplines study how format and content of messages affect behaviour



Deeper conceptualization of implementability could improve uptake of CPGs

Objectives



- Review the literature to:
 - Determine the attributes of recommendations that impact uptake
 - Combine different disciplinary understandings of implementability

Methods

Realist review

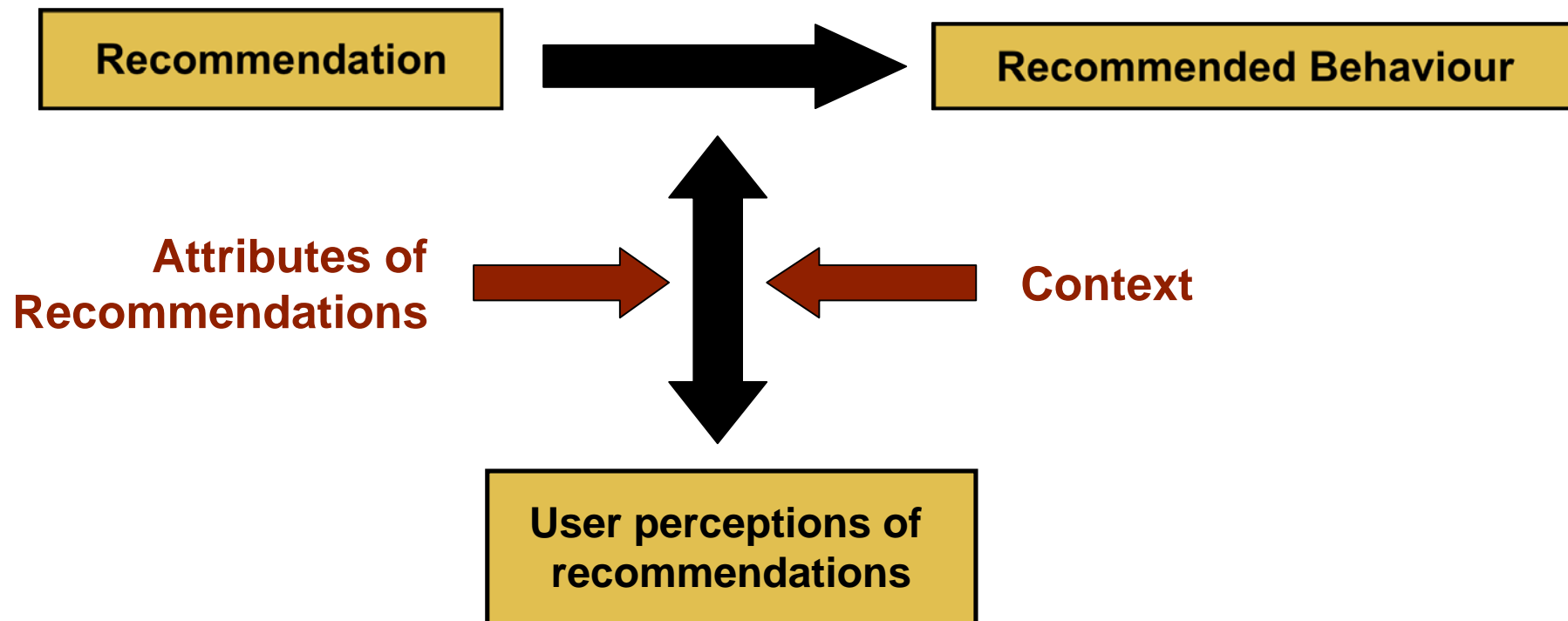




Realist Review

- Qualitative approach
 - Iterative, interactive, purposive
- Explicitly theory-driven
 - Interrogates theories that underline the programs or interventions being studied
- More appropriate than traditional systematic review for:
 - New and under-theorized topics, complex interventions, and poorly classified literatures

Theory of Implementability



Realist Review Search Strategy



Level 1: Core articles search



Level 2: Expert identification of articles

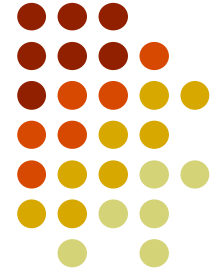


Level 3: Bibliography searching



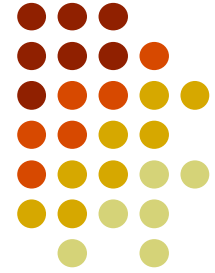
Level 4: Related articles search

Data Extraction



- Review and selection of articles done independently and in duplicate by 3 researchers
- Standardized form used to extract and organize data

Synthesis Methods



Step 1: Realist Review Synthesis

- *What* is it about recommendations that affect behaviour, for *whom*, under what *circumstances*, in what *context*, and *why*

Step 2: Other Qualitative Methods

- Sorting and interpreting of “storylines” or “narratives” in various disciplines (meta-narrative)
- Identify distinct attributes and the relationships between them (reciprocal translation analysis)

Preliminary Results

Results of the ongoing realist review





Preliminary Search Results

Level of Searching	Yield	Description
Level 1: Core articles	17	Data collection complete. Reviewed in duplicate.
Level 2: Expert Identification	52 (27)	Three experts consulted to date. (Review of management/marketing literature complete)
Level 3: Bibliography searching	151	Potentially relevant articles extracted from search of core articles bibliographies.
Level 4: Related articles search	~1500	Using PubMed Related Articles feature for core articles.
TOTAL	~1717	

Guideline Attributes



111 attributes & definitions extracted

27 distinct attributes

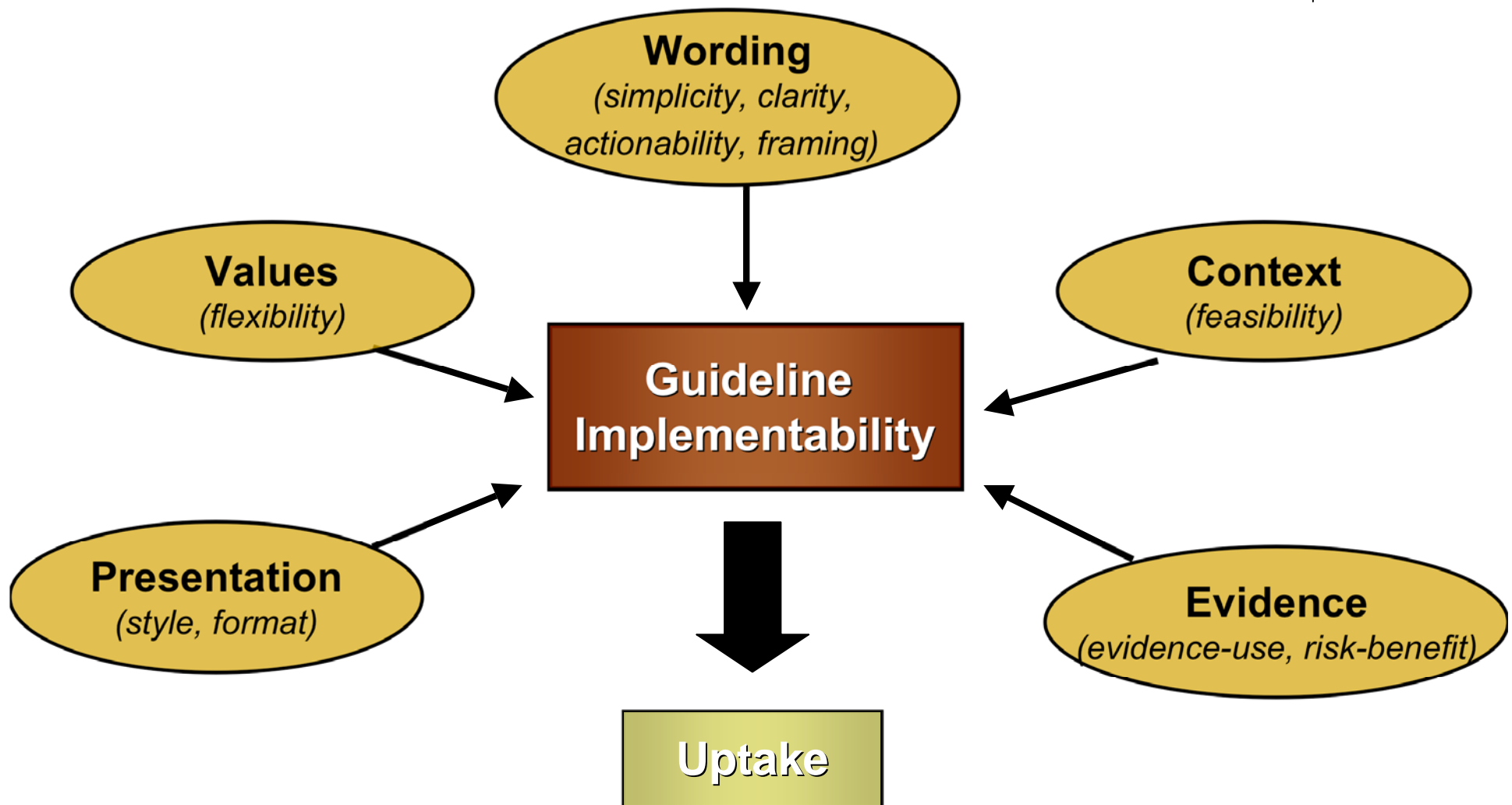
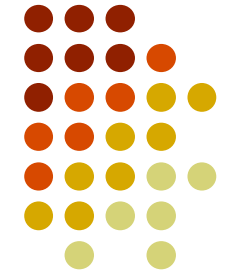
5 clusters of attributes

Information overload,
Gain/loss frame,
Vagueness,
Precision,
(45 total)

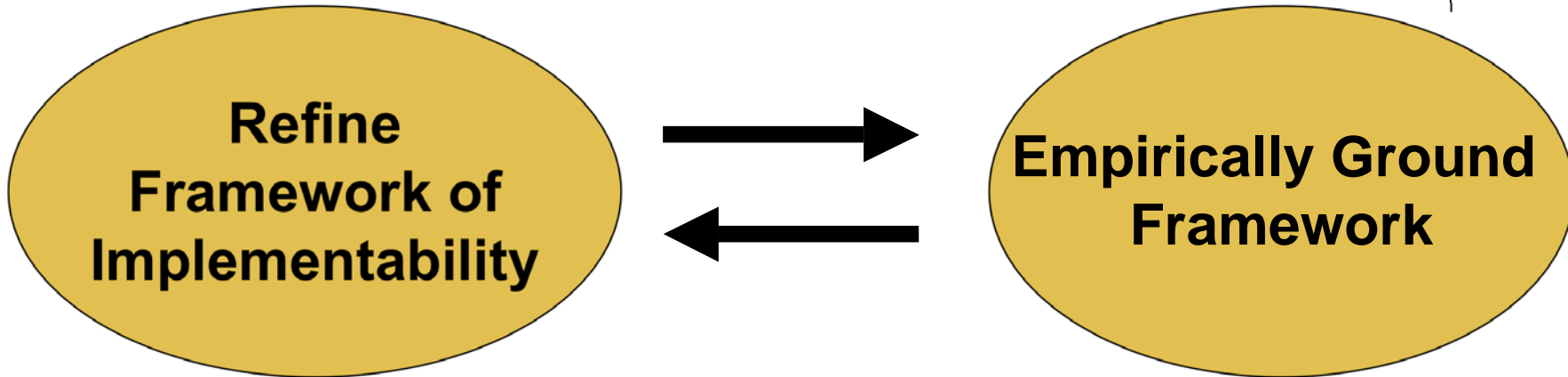
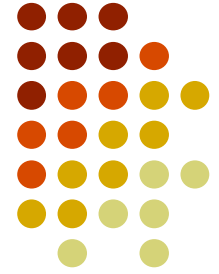
Simplicity, Framing,
Actionability
Clarity

Wording cluster

Preliminary Framework of Implementability



Next Steps



Complete Realist Review

Operationalize attributes that can be changed by guideline developers

Conduct Focus Groups and Interviews with:

1. End-users (i.e. Family Physicians)
2. Guideline developers

Conclusions



- Realist review combines different disciplines to conceptualize implementability
- Attributes cluster into: wording, values, context, presentation, and evidence
- Empirical work will ground and refine framework for application to guideline development and implementation
- More implementable guidelines will lead to better care