

OASIS Alert

Quality Improvement: FOR OASIS SUCCESS, DISSECT CHANGES BEFORE YOU MAKE THEM

Learn how to tell which innovations might work in your agency.

The upcoming transition to OASIS C has agencies looking at how to update practices and processes to meet new challenges. Before you jump in, plan and assess your proposed changes.

Any home health agency that has tried a new strategy based on a conference presentation illustrating what worked for one HHAn agency knows that the same strategy often is unsuccessful at another agency. A broad range of factors, both within and outside your agency, can affect the process of implementing innovations, says **Brian Mittman**, director of the **Veterans Affairs Center for Implementation Research and Improvement Science**.

Tip: Before you try your next innovative idea for improving your agency's quality or outcomes, such as developing a depression assessment process, learn more about the ins and outs of innovation.

Use Resources That Increase Chances For Success

When planning an innovation -- for example, how to respond to high falls risk scores -- apply a comprehensive approach to address the complex factors that can sabotage your efforts, Mittman advises. Consider how appropriate the innovation is for your agency, how ready your agency is to adopt the innovation, and how to plan and implement the innovation, the **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality** tells providers.

One source Mittman recommends is AHRQ's Innovations Exchange. Free Webinars available at the exchange focus on different facets of change, such as learning from your disappointments or making data work for you.

Planning guide: Another resource to take you through the entire planning process is a guide developed by the **Research Triangle Institute** about adopting innovations -- Will It Work Here? -- available from AHRQ.

Will It Work Here? considers four questions in detail:

1. Does the innovation fit?
2. Should we do it here?
3. Can we do it here?
4. How will we do it here?

For each of these questions, the guide takes you step-by-step through questions you should consider, why they matter, and even the separate components of each question. It also links you to relevant case studies. You can choose the level of detail that works for you and consider each module as you need it. The guide comes in pdf format with quick links to related sections.

Example: If you're wondering whether you can implement an innovation on a small scale, select that question from the list on pages three and four in the Will It Work Here? guide and it will take you to the part of Module IV that guides your thinking process to help you decide.

Other resources: If you need a postacute transfer tool, falls prevention information, or an intervention package to help you improve your relationships with physicians, these and many other innovation resources and tools are available in a

searchable database at www.innovations.ahrq.gov.

Note: To download the Will It Work Here? guide, go to
<http://innovations.ahrq.gov/resources/InnovationAdoptionGuide.pdf>.