

## **Knowledge translation to policy and practice: INCLEN's Knowledge 'Plus' Program (KPP)**

Major obstacles towards better health still exist between research findings and concrete action to solve global health problems. These problems continue to exist due to inequitable resource allocation of research funds, inability of policymakers and the general public to efficiently utilize research-derived knowledge to make informed decisions, the “information gap” between developed and developing countries, and the unmet need to locally adopt research outputs. Knowledge management is a powerful tool that can facilitate the application of knowledge to directly impact on the health of populations. The Knowledge ‘Plus’ Program of the International Clinical Epidemiology Network is one such program that promotes evidence-based decision making for better health by managing the knowledge base on health interventions using measures of safety, efficacy, effectiveness, efficiency and—equally important—equity and local appropriateness. The ‘Plus’ component of KPP consists of improved tools for assessing *local appropriateness* and *equity*, including the use of “tacit knowledge”.

### **Developing Knowledge ‘Plus’ Packages**

KPP aims to develop and implement research-driven health practice guidelines called “Knowledge *Plus*” Packages. The main steps towards the production and use of these KP packages are:

- ?? Identification of priority health problems for a specific country and/or region;
- ?? Identification of stakeholders or clients
- ?? Collection of relevant, available literature and information on interventions for these priority problems;
- ?? Appraisal of information on such health interventions against benchmarks for efficacy, effectiveness, efficiency, local appropriateness and equity;
- ?? Consensus-building among stakeholders on health practice guidelines based on informed appraisal;
- ?? Development, dissemination and implementation of KP packages for priority problems; and
- ?? Monitoring and evaluation.

KP packages are now under development for the country settings of Colombia, India and the Philippines for acute respiratory infections in children under 5 years of age, diagnosis of pediatric TB and management of multidrug-resistant TB, and management of hypercholesterolemia. The criteria for selecting these topics were as follows: high probability of successful implementation of health practice guidelines in terms of program feasibility and stakeholder involvement; differences in policy and practice among countries in terms of equity and applicability; significant equity issues; within the interest and expertise of INCLEN members, and sufficient evidence from research literature, complemented by “tacit knowledge”.

### **Expected Impact**

The KPP, through its focus on local appropriateness and equity, is expected to achieve a higher specificity and level of integration of “best appropriate practice” for improved health care in developing countries. Its focus on priority health problems of participating countries and regions and the involvement of key stakeholders are expected to achieve optimal knowledge translation into policy and action. “Knowledge managers” are also expected to emerge in the regions and countries, ensuring sustainability and effective knowledge translation.

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