

Made for Each Other: How Practice Based Research Networks are Engaging Clinicians in a Study of Advance Care Planning in Primary Care

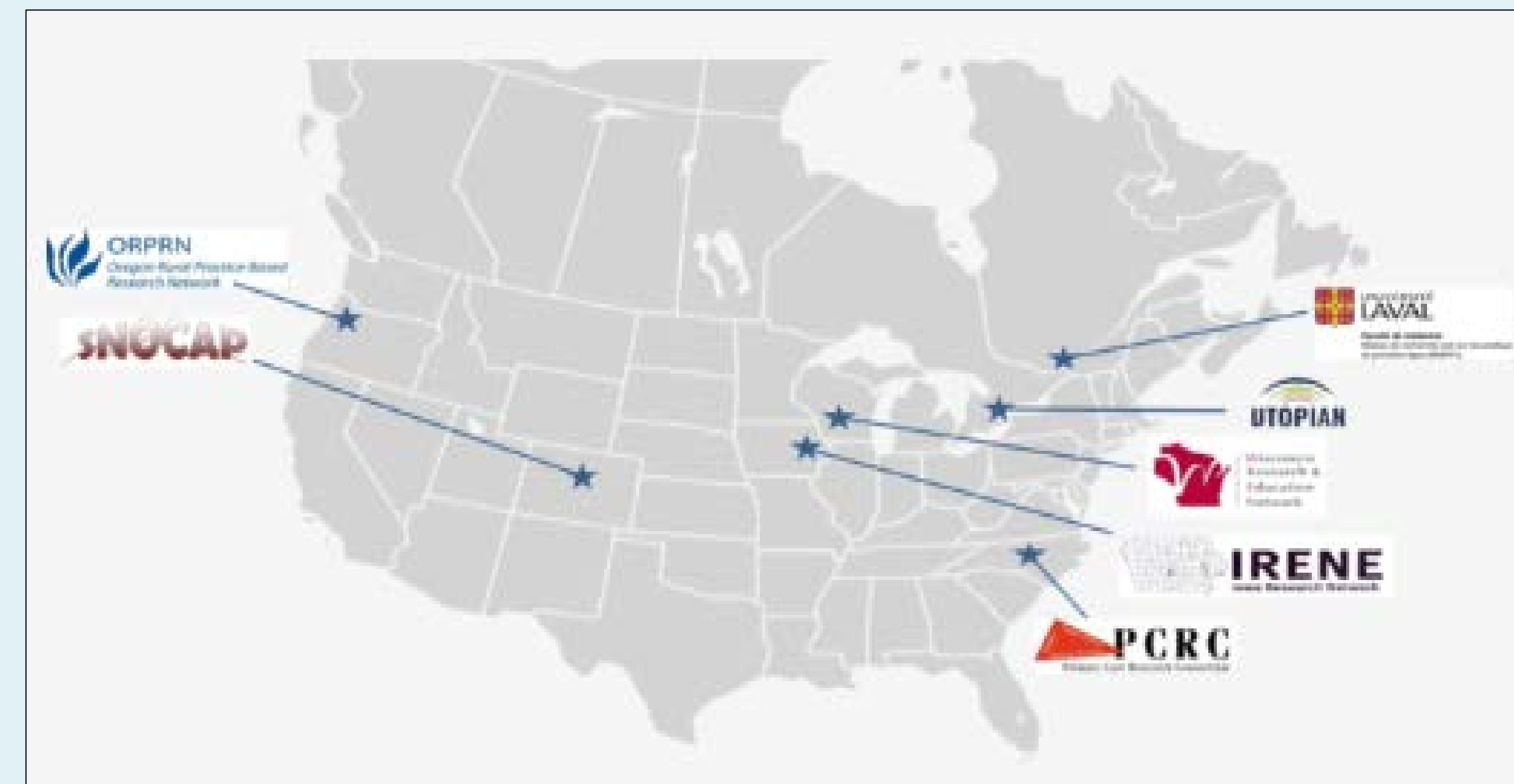
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Objective

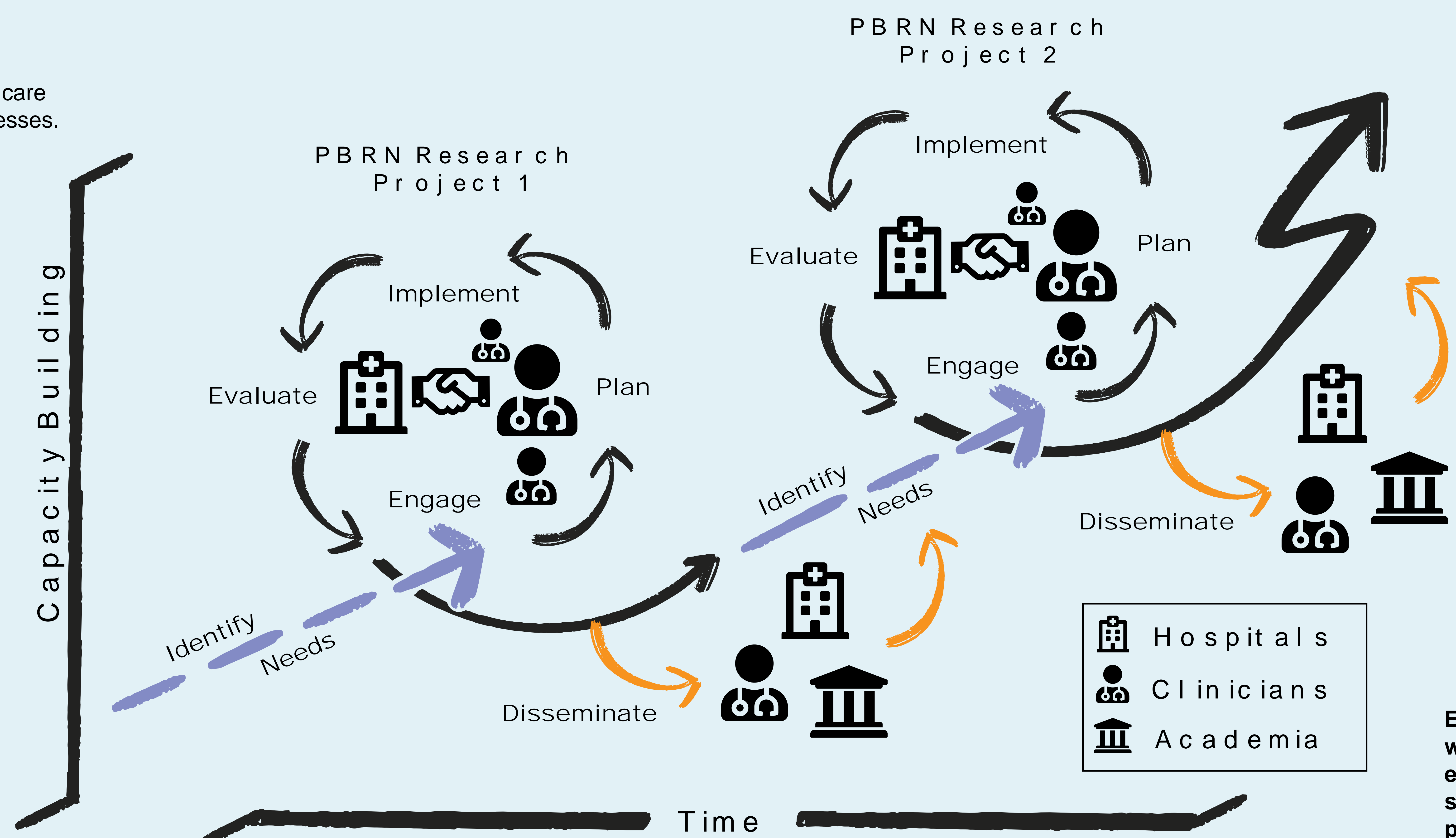
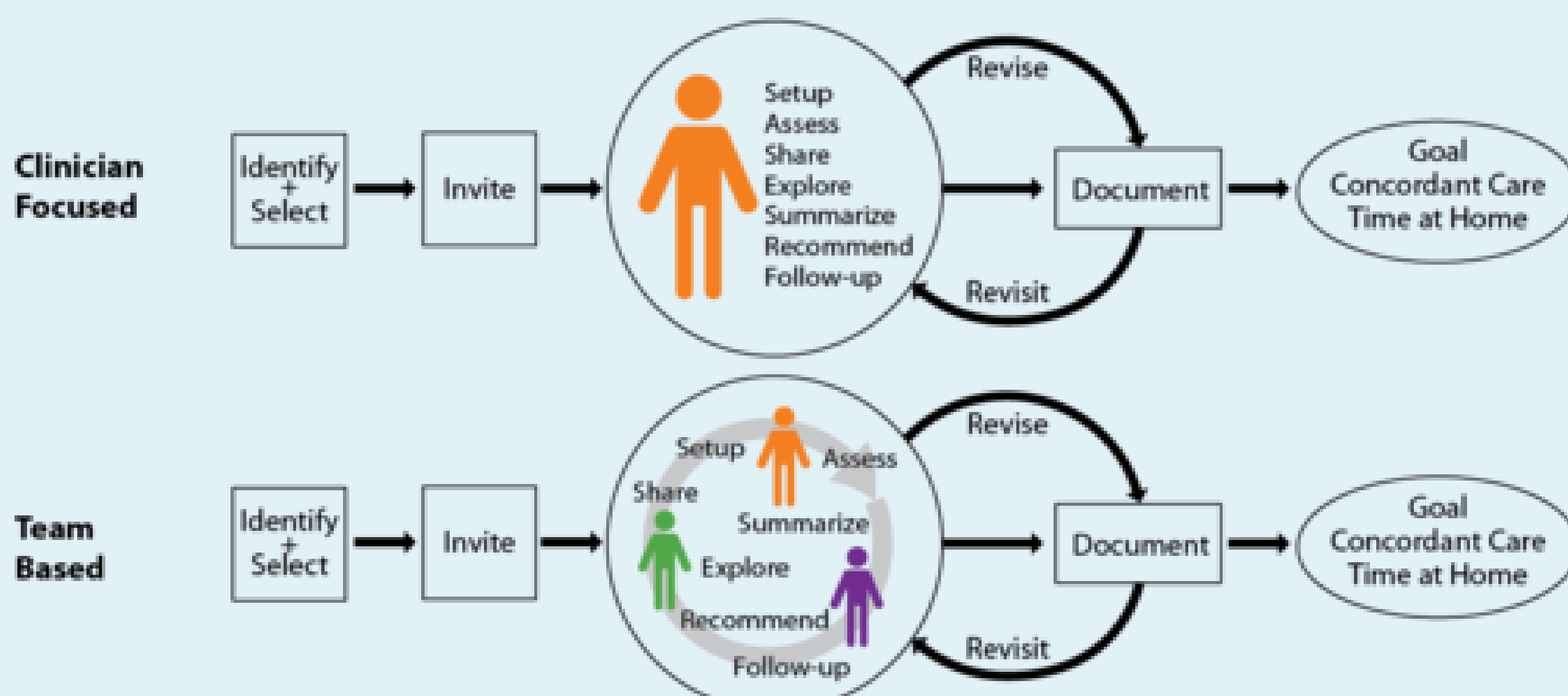
To identify the most effective way of implementing advance care planning (ACP) in primary care for patients with serious illnesses.



Background

Practice Based Research Networks (PBRNs) involve primary care practices in diverse ways: **proposing research questions, identifying best practices, recruiting patients and disseminating results.** This is the first cross border Canada – United States trial involving 7 PBRNs from 5 different US states and 2 Canadian provinces, in a Cluster Randomized Trial about ACP in Primary Care. 42 primary care practices serve as the laboratory for a trial on ACP using the Serious Illness Care Program (SICP) in clinician-focused or team-based implementation arms.

Serious Illness Care Program



Conclusion

- Centralized infrastructure (e.g., single IRB) is necessary, but not sufficient
- Meaningful collaboration requires mechanisms and time
- Create local ownership & credit
- Provide space to allow sharing “best practices” regarding implementation
- Clinician engagement is key to understanding local variations and making adaptations
- Allow for flexible approaches and local customization
- Incorporate clinician feedback & emphasize bidirectional learning
- Seek clinician input on operational manuals and implementation tools
- Engage busy clinicians by adjusting to their needs
- Approach engagement as a component of trial design

Engaging clinicians through the PBRNs will continue to advance ACP: clinician engagement will be essential to supporting sustainability in the practices, promoting ACP within PBRNs and replication beyond PBRNs.

Ensuring Clinician Influence & Impact

Engagement Plan: Goals of Clinicians and Primary Care Practices

- Develop skills & confidence having ACP conversations
- Create reliable & valid tools for ACP
- Expand knowledge and improve current processes
- Respond effectively to patient and family questions
- Measure outcomes meaningful to clinicians and patients
- Improve trust and relationships with patients, families, and communities, especially in end of life care

Measuring and Monitoring Clinician Engagement

Engagement Structure

- Cross-PBRN workgroup
- PBRN Operations groups
- Direct meetings with PBRNs
- Patient and Family Advisory Councils (PFACs)

Engagement Plan: Clinician Measurement

Implementing SICP
Integration of ACP in Primary Care

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