

## WHAT IS IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH?

According to the National Cancer Institute, implementation research is the study of methods to promote the adoption and integration of evidence-based practices, interventions, and policies into routine health care and public health settings to improve the impact on population health (314).

Implementation research can help bridge the divide between research and clinical cancer

care because interventions that have proven effective in clinical trials for preventing cancer, reducing cancer incidence and mortality, and improving quality of life are only truly effective if they are delivered to those who need them.

When implementing an evidence-based intervention, such as colorectal cancer screening or an exercise intervention for cancer patients and survivors, it is important to:

**Assess** whether the evidence-based intervention will fit the goals and needs of all stakeholders affected by its implementation, including the health care providers who would have to deliver the intervention and the cancer patients and survivors who would receive it.

**Implement** the plan by changing workflow practices, training health care providers in how to deliver the evidence-based intervention, and educating and engaging the community the intervention is designed to benefit.

**Prepare** a plan to implement the evidence-based intervention in the community to be served by using information from the assessment step to determine the education, training, and workflow-change needs of the stakeholders.

**Evaluate** whether the evidence-based intervention was fully implemented or whether the implementation plan needs adapting to improve uptake.