

# Conference Abstract

**2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Australian Implementation Conference**

**17-18 September 2014**

## **Title**

An approach to measuring the impact of initiatives implemented to improve health outcomes: The EXPert PANel Decision (EXPAND) Method

## **Theme**

Theme 5: Methods, measures and tools for evaluating implementation processes

## **Abstract**

Internationally and nationally, clinical networks are increasingly being viewed as important implementation vehicles to embed evidence-based care within health systems. Clinical networks can be effective in engaging clinicians in service redesign and reform, developing and implementing protocols, developing and implementing guidelines and knowledge sharing. A key challenge for policy makers and clinicians in evaluating whether such quality improvement initiatives implemented are effective, is the establishment of a rigorous, valid and feasible method for measuring the scale of their impacts in a 'real-world' context.

To address challenges in evaluating health service improvement initiatives, researchers, clinicians and policy makers have adapted methods of implicit review by experts to form judgements for assessments, clinical practice and wider policy. The use of expert panels provides a structured means of interpreting the information available and reaching a consensus about issues where there is limited or variable evidence.

The EXPert PANel Decision (EXPAND) Method is a novel approach to assessing the impact of initiatives implemented by 19 clinical networks that operate in a state-wide region in Australia. The aim of the presentation is to outline the approach developed to assess the implementation initiatives and report on the feasibility of the EXPAND Method. The EXPAND Method involved independent expert rating of the evidence of health outcome impact, a moderated meeting of EXPAND Method members and a second rating of evidence.

While there are challenges in conceptualising and operationalising the measurement of implementation initiatives, the EXPAND Method is an approach that can be used by others measuring limited or variable evidence in the absence of a gold standard measure of impact.

## **Presentation type**

20 minute oral presentation