

# **Process Evaluation Challenges:**

**In a research program focused on frail older adults**

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# Process Evaluation

- describes the *intervention*, the *actual exposure* to the intervention, and the *experience* of those exposed (participants).
- helps to understand *which components of the intervention* contributed to its success (or failure)
- Helps to understand under *what conditions* the intervention is successful
- can be used in the on-going improvement of study *implementation*.

# Studies Including a Process Evaluation

## 1. Mobility of Vulnerable Elders (MOVE)

- Quasi-experimental longitudinal study
- Funded by CIHR

## 2. Knowledge Translation Interventions

- Mixed-methods design included interviews, focus groups and a modified Delphi process used to elicit perceptions of the knowledge translation interventions
- Funded by KT Canada

## 3. Sustaining Transfers through Affordable Research Translation (START)

- Cluster randomized controlled trial
- Funded by Alberta Innovates Health Solutions (AIHS)

# Process Evaluation Data

- Fieldnotes and Observations
- Individual Interviews
- Focus groups
- Delphi Questionnaires
- Accelerometry Data

# Methodological issues: Integrating process evaluation alongside RCTs

1. How can we gather data for a process evaluation without influencing the outcome of an RCT?
  - Difficult to separate the effect of process evaluation data collection from the social / behavioral intervention.
2. Where interventions and implementation strategies are delivered over time, how can we account for change in delivery over time? (e.g., more efficient intervention delivery by participants OR more efficient implementation by researchers over time)
  - How can we monitor change over time?

# Challenges in Conducting Process Evaluation

- **Reliability of Data**

- HCAs remove the device early
- Incorrect placement of Active Pal by HCAs
- Casual HCAs don't know about the study
- Device not capturing the movement
- Documentation issues
- Recall bias/faded memory

- **Recruitment issues**

- Participants are not interested
- Time constraint
- Unit leaders are not supportive
- Issues related to scheduling the interviews
- New/casual staff