The Power of Synergy:
Clinical Partnership with the Joanna Briggs Collaboration

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Introduction

The inimitable context of healthcare practice continues to increase in complexity. Changes in demography and disease patterns, health workforce supply and distribution, safety and quality, balancing public and private sectors, urban planning and creating healthy, sustainable communities are issues not confined to any one country or region. In addition to these challenges it is now well recognised that, despite considerable investment in the generation of research, for the most part it is not routinely used in practice or policy. However, with a small investment in building a partnership with the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) and the international Joanna Briggs Collaboration (JBC) there is great potential for significant impacts at the point of care.

The vision of JBI and the JBC is ‘a world in which the best available evidence is used to inform decision making at the point of care to improve health outcomes in communities globally’. To achieve this vision, we cannot work in isolation and academic-clinical partnerships offer opportunities to leverage expertise in both sectors to reach this goal.

The JBI Model of Evidence Based Healthcare recognizes that theory and practice are equally important parts of the same agenda and for evidence based decision-making to occur in an authentic manner it is critical that the evidence is clinically relevant. Unfortunately, academic and clinical settings do not always align as they could or should and shifting priorities, funding sources and organizational structures can make the creation of meaningful partnerships challenging. Therefore, JBI has implemented a formalized framework around clinical partnerships to overcome fundamental differences in academic and health service culture and orientation around evidence based healthcare.

It is hoped that taking such a synergistic approach to this endeavour, where the knowledge needs of expert clinicians are paired with the skills of experienced academics to synthesise and produce usable evidence, will result in a valuable and powerful approach to addressing translational gaps and achieving an evidence based approach to the healthcare delivery. We believe that if we approach evidence-based healthcare as an organisational, collaborative initiative, from synthesis to transfer and implementation, then the potential for increased sustainability and improved health outcomes is surely increased.

This resource is designed to provide information relating to JBI, our approach to evidence-based healthcare and what it means to be a JBI/JBC clinical partner. It is an emergent area of work for JBI and it is anticipated that as these partnerships develop it will be possible to further advance shared, meaningful integrative strategies for working effectively together. I look forward to working with JBI Collaborating Entities and their clinical partners to drive forward this exciting initiative.

Prof Zoe Jordan
Executive Director
The Importance of Clinical Partnership to the JBI Model

The JBI Model for Evidence Based Healthcare follows the evidence based trajectory from evidence generation through to synthesis, transfer and implementation of the best available evidence at the point of care. It is our belief that research questions (whether primary or secondary research) must be derived from the knowledge needs of the healthcare community and collaborative approaches should be utilised that account for local contexts in order to achieve improved outcomes and sustained impact. To this end, partnership is essential across all involved stakeholders and groups. This ranges from local collaborations between health services and academia, clinicians and patients, to international collaboration between governments, research units, and health organisations.

JBI has long asserted the need for evidence-based healthcare to address the knowledge requirements of the community (that is, clinicians, patients/consumers, governments and other organisations). Indeed, a significant gap associated with the translation of research into action has been the gap from knowledge need to discovery. An integrated approach to topic selection, where there is active collaboration between those conducting research and the end users of research is essential.

Partnership with a JBI Collaborating Entity

The international Joanna Briggs Collaboration consists of JBI Centres of Excellence and Affiliated Groups that contribute to furthering the vision and mission of the institute globally through the delivery of high quality programs of evidence synthesis, transfer and implementation. The academics and health professionals in these Entities agree that health professionals on the frontline of service provision have unique insights to offer the evidence based endeavour and that academic-clinical partnerships will form a strong foundation for the planning and delivery of evidence based services. In partnering with a JBI Collaborating Entity there is significant potential for capacity building of stakeholders and to enhance the learning culture of both settings.

Pre-requisites for successful partnership

Establishing a collaborative relationship like this can be as challenging as it is rewarding. However, it is important that deliberate efforts are made to establish a conducive environment for effective partnership. In circumstances where there is a shared vision, joint planning, mutually agreed goals and open and honest communication the potential for success is greatly increased. It is anticipated that partners will meet regularly in the lead up to formalising their relationship to ensure there are clearly articulated and adequately documented measurable goals and strategies for evaluation. It is important to have strong institutional leadership support from both entities and structures in place for accountability, shared resources, dedicated time and agreed deadlines to ensure sustainability.
Partnership structure

While most JBI Collaborating Entities are typically housed within academic institutions some are situated within health services. Therefore, the structure and nature of JBI Clinical Partnerships will vary. Whether the Entity is in an academic or clinical location they have opportunity to nominate to work with a designated hospital (i.e. a single site) or health facility. It is recommended that the following things be considered when establishing a partnership:

- Governance/reporting structure/model (i.e. is there opportunity for appropriate representation on relevant committees on each side – e.g. steering committees, advisory boards, QI teams etc.)
- Establishing key stakeholders (both high level and per project)
- Establishing a framework for priority settings (to meet the needs of both partners)
- Communications strategies (i.e. regular meetings, advertising for workshops)

It is not the aim of JBI to be prescriptive about how partnerships are structured, but rather to ensure there is adequate preparation and thought into the most meaningful structure for your partnership.

Benefits of partnership

Broadly speaking, the great power and strength of academic-clinical partnership is in mutual goal setting and in maximising resources around evidence-based healthcare. Specifically, JBI Clinical Partnerships offer the following to each party:

Benefits for the JBI Collaborating Entity

- Access to end users to help inform scholarly work undertaken and ensure its clinical relevance
- Ability to contribute to improved health outcomes locally through the conduct of clinically relevant reviews and implementation projects
- Opportunity to publish systematic reviews and implementation reports in collaboration with a clinical partner

Benefits for the Clinical Partner

- A complimentary subscription to JBI EBP Database of tools and resources on Ovid, including training and support
- Ongoing engagement and capacity development activities for staff each year (i.e. workshops/training/ Lunch and Learn sessions)
- Active facilitation in the use of JBI resources for staff (including SUMARI, PACES, Manual builder, Consumer pamphlet builder, Journal Club, CAN-Implement Pro(c), Searching via Ovid, or Connect+) including SUMARI, PACES, CAN-Implement PRO(c) Searching via Ovid
- Ability to contribute to the direction of scholarly activity undertaken by the JBI Collaborating Entity and ensure its clinical relevance
Clinical Partner Subscription

JBI's evidence–based practice model is considered a benchmark in the healthcare industry — encouraging healthcare professionals to implement effective evidence–based practice program to provide the best possible patient care. Available on both Ovid and Nursing@Ovid, JBI EBP Resources offer:

- Content and tools that will help your institution implement evidence–based practice
- Systematic reviews, recommended practices, evidence summaries, and more
- Evidence to inform clinical practice — derived from JBI’s Global Collaborating Entities in over 40 countries
- Summarized research in a format that is easy to locate, understand and distribute to your staff
- Tools designed to help EBP policy and practice manual development based on evidence
- Critical appraisal skill development using a tool to guide you through the steps
- Resources designed to help assess quality of research

Find more information about JBI resources on Ovid at:
http://www.ovid.com/site/platforms/jbi_ebp.jsp

Ovid provides the following assistance to the Clinical Partner:

- Troubleshooting via phone (24x7 support toll free numbers in most countries)
- Access to the JBI Resource Centre: http://access.ovid.com/training/jbi/cards_ovidsp.htm
- Links to webinars/tutorials: http://www.ovid.com/site/support/training.jsp#tabs7
- In person visit may be available when they have staff in country.

Clinical Partnership Research Program

While JBI believes that collaboration between JBI Collaborating Entities and Clinical Partners will result in more applicable research being used in practice, there is still more work to be done to determine the best framework for achieving the desired outcome. We also believe that the most powerful partnerships are co-created. Given that the Clinical Partnership is still in its infancy as a formalised endeavour for JBI and the JBC, a comprehensive research program is being established to better understand the nature of collaboration and the most effective strategies for creating meaningful and productive relationships. This will further inform the work that we do to help support collaborative activities of this kind.