The Spread and Adoption tool

"Every part of the NHS is working hard to deliver the QIPP Challenge...the Spread and Adoption Tool could be used to make sure that the right changes will actually get implemented and are sustained”

Way Main Wong, Consultant from NHS Southend

The tool aims to help staff to increase the scale and pace of the sustainable spread and adoption of innovation and improvements in the NHS.

Use the Spread and Adoption Tool.

What does the Spread and Adoption Tool offer me?

The Spread and Adoption Tool is a free, easy to use, web-based application. It is a practical tool that represents what we know about spread and adoption.

The tool has three sections:

Assess – which provides a self assessment of the readiness and likely success of the spread and adoption of any innovation or improvement. Input your information on three areas of People, Innovation and Context.

Browse – which provides guidance, access to additional tools and learning from others to help strengthen areas that need attention.

E-mail - The tool will consolidate the assessment and all bookmarked resources into an e-mail that can be sent to you the user as a record and basis for an action plan. It can also be sent to others for discussion and comparison.

Assessments and bookmarked resources are not retained so you need to email them if you wish for a copy of the outputs.

Why should I use this tool?

- It will help you improve quality and efficiency more quickly.
- The tool will enable you to prioritise and plan your activities and to identify resources to help you.
- It is a self assessment of the readiness and likely success of the spread and adoption of any innovation or improvement. It helps identify and provide guidance for strengthening areas that need attention.
- There is the need to increase the spread and adoption of innovations in the NHS as a means to meet the challenge of providing quality care to an ageing and growing population with rising expectations while making a £20billion efficiency saving.
- The spread of innovation is one of eight components of the NHS Change Model.

How do I use the tool?

Detailed user guide with screenshots. Guidance for using the Spread and Adoption Tool (488.90 KB)

In summary the tool has three main functions: Assess, Browse and Email.

Assess - Answer 22 questions on success factors within three component areas (People, Innovation and Context) which takes about 10 minutes. This will assess the readiness and likely success of the spread and adoption of an innovation (idea, initiative or programme). Click the 'summarise assessment' button and the tool will prioritise the factors requiring the most action.

Browse - Browse the resources to find suggestions, tools with internet links and examples of what others have done to increase the spread and adoption of innovations, for each of the 22 questions. Bookmark any information you wish to email to yourself or others.

Email results - Email your self assessment and bookmarked resources to yourself and share with others.

How to use the assessment?

Your assessment can be used as a focus for discussion and planning. Invite colleagues to complete the assessment for the same innovation then compare your responses and
discuss to see what action you need to take.

What browsers and devices can I use?

**Browser compatibility**

The tool has successfully been tested against: Firefox 13 (and higher), Chrome 19 (and higher), Internet Explorer (IE) 7, IE 8 and IE 9 (and higher). The operation of the tool is not guaranteed with browsers that have lower versions than listed above.

**Device compatibility**

The Spread and Adoption Tool is a web application tool that functions on Windows PCs and laptops when using most common web browsers (see browser compatibility list above).

The tool also functions with iPad tablets using the iOS (Apple) operating system and Android (Google) tablets with their respective native browsers. The operation of the tool is not guaranteed on mobile phone devices.

When is this tool useful?

The tool is for use when:

- the decision has been made, or is being made to put an innovation or improvement into practice. This may be a local decision or a national requirement such as NICE guidance or other ‘must do’s’.
- help is needed to prioritise and then plan which specific innovations are likely to be spread and adopted on a sustained basis.

The tool can be used repeatedly during a piece of work to review progress.

Who will find this tool useful?

The tool is applicable to all staff at all levels and all settings. The tool focuses on what an individual, in their role, needs to do to improve the pace and spread of innovations. This may be from the perspective of someone trying to spread an innovation i.e. to get others to adopt or from the perspectives of those who need or wish to adopt an innovation into their practice.

How does the tool link to the NHS Change Model?

The spread of innovation is one of eight components of the NHS Change model. For information access the [NHS Change Model](#) website.

FAQ

**Do I use on my own or as part of a team?**

Complete the self assessment section as an individual. The results can then be used alone or in team discussions and planning with colleagues.

As a team questions you might want to ask about your assessments:

- Are they similar or not?
- Where are the differences?
- What do the differences or similarities tell you?
- What actions do you need to take?
- What order will you take them in?

**How do I select which areas to strengthen first?**

The factors do not have a weighting assigned. If you identify a number of factors that require action then you / team are best placed to prioritise their order based on your knowledge of your specific context.

Other tools and the individuals’ skills and knowledge need to be used alongside this tool and some are identified in the ‘Browse’ section.

**How was it produced?**
The tool results from the synthesis of:

- published evidence
- knowledge from NHS Institute staff
- external experts

which together provide a unique insight into the spread and adoption of innovation.

It should complement and work alongside tools that you may already have which focus on improvement through a different lens e.g. diagnostic tool, sustainability Model.

The prototype tool has been tested across the NHS in acute and community settings and by commissioners and providers.

**Does this tool work for a ‘Push’ or for a ‘Pull’ approach?**

The spread of many innovations / improvement is push initiated. This tool will support a push approach but will help to maximise the Pull element.

**What’s the difference between innovation and improvement?**

The Innovation review report ‘Innovation, Health and Wealth’ defines innovation as ‘an idea, service or product, new to the NHS or applied in a way that is new to the NHS, which significantly improves the quality of health and care wherever it is applied’.

E.M Rogers defines innovation as ‘an idea, practice or object that is perceived as new by an individual’.

I keep hearing spread, adoption, scale up, dissemination etc..... are they the same?

There are many differing interpretations of these words. Sometimes the same word is used by different people to mean different things.

It is worth being absolutely clear in your communications what you mean by the terms you use and what the people you are working with mean.

Offered definitions:

- **Spread** - actively influencing others to put a change / innovation into their practice
- **Adoption** - putting a change / improvement into your practice
- **Diffusion** - occurs naturally
- **Dissemination** - organised, often ‘top down’

**How long will it take me to complete the tool?**

An estimate is 5-10 minutes to complete the self assessment section and 5 minutes for each factor you look at in the Browse section. The time you spend on the Browse section will depend on the depth and breadth of information you want.

**Where can I find out more about what the literature says about spread and adoption?**

References are listed on the NHS Change Model website, spread component.

**Feedback**

We’d love to hear your views on the Spread and Adoption Tool. After you’ve used it please consider completing the short online survey.