Adaptation of a Depression Self-management Intervention for Adults with Chronic Physical Conditions to Include Caregivers: Preliminary findings

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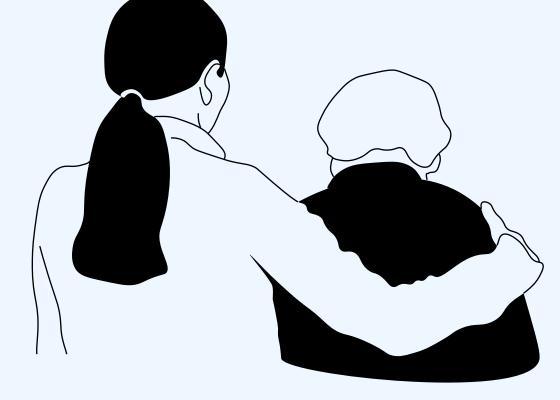
BACKGROUND

Caregivers provide over 70% of the care needed by those with chronic illnesses. Caregiver often experience negative mental health impacts but have access to fewer services than patients.

Conservatively, it is estimated that approximately 20% of both caregivers and adults with chronic illnesses experience depression.^{2,3,4}

Dyadic interventions which include both patients and caregivers have been shown to increase adherence and offer an avenue for also targeting caregivers' needs.⁵

One acceptable cost-effective avenue to support those with chronic conditions and their caregivers are dyadic self-management interventions.



OBJECTIVE

To **adapt** a previously tested self-management depression intervention for adults with chronic conditions, the *DIRECT-sc* toolkit, to include caregivers (dyadic format).

METHODS

We developed the **COnsolidated Intervention adaptatioN procesS (COINS).** COINS was informed by the Medical Research Council guidance⁶ as well as two frameworks: M-PACE⁷, which outlines broad steps and reflects patient—oriented research, and 2) a scoping review⁸ that identified 8 commonly used steps across adaptation frameworks.

A steering committee of 10 experts adjudicated on proposed changes generated from semi-structured interviews with target users of the adapted intervention and clinicians (n = 21).

Decisions were based on three criteria: **importance for effectiveness, feasibility, and congruence** with core components of the original intervention, relevant theory, and findings of two systematic reviews by our team.⁷



Selected changes were integrated into the intervention. Acceptability of the preliminary dyadic version is being assessed through semi–structured interviews and two validated measures, Treatment Acceptability and Preferences (TAP)⁹ and Client Satisfaction Questionnaire (CSQ–8)¹⁰, being completed by stakeholders.

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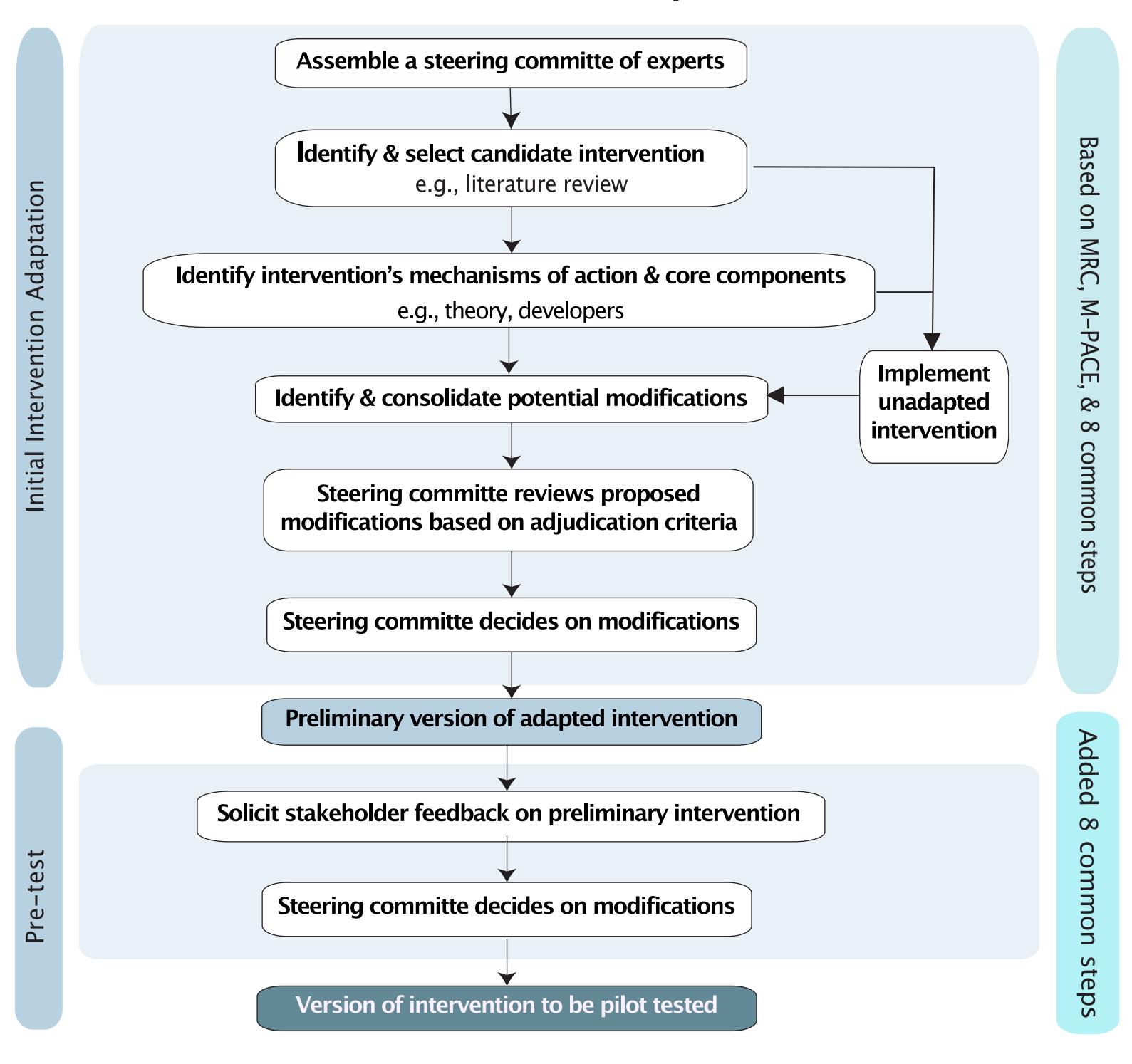


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The Consolidated Intervention Adaptation Process (COINS)



PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Based on a 75% supermajority agreement among committee members:

- 28 of the 35 proposed changes retained (e.g., self-care information for caregivers)
- Those excluded were mainly due to feasibility concerns (e.g., online group chat)

Acceptability questionnaires (n=5 patients/caregivers; n=6 HCPs):

- Median TAP scores: 28/32 patients/caregivers; 25.5/32 for HCPs
- Median CSQ-8 scores: 14/16 for patients and caregivers; 12.5/16 for HCPs

Acceptability interviews indicate:

- Most common concern was that the intervention may only be appropriate for a subset of dyads (e.g., motivated, strong communication skills).
- Volume of material may be overwhelming
- Suggested changes: partitioning content into multiple booklets, adding examples that are more inclusive of different populations (e.g., younger adults)

CONCLUSION

The findings help address two gaps in the literature by providing:

- Data on challenges and potential benefits of dyadic intervention with adults with chronic illnesses and their caregivers
- Detail on actionable steps of a theoretically and empirically informed intervention Adaptation

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