Harnessing Rapid Reviews to Transform Virtual Health

Bridging Evidence and Decision-Making for Improved Care Delivery

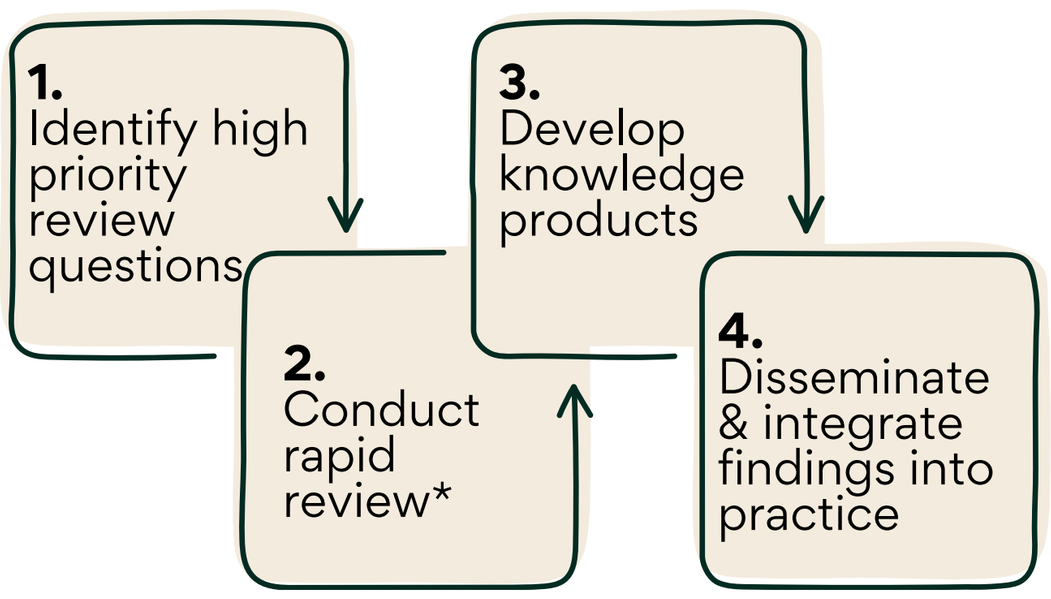
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Background

Despite rapid growth in virtual care, evidence often fails to reach decision-makers in time to inform service design.

Embedded within the Virtual Health Department at Fraser Health, the largest regional health authority in British Columbia, Canada, the **rapid review program** is designed to support timely, evidence-informed decisions

Methods



Virtual Health staff actively shape the research agenda, ensuring that rapid reviews are not just academic exercises but practical tools for driving health care improvements.

*Specific rapid review methods:
- Titles/abstracts, followed by full texts, were screened by a single reviewer (20% double-screened)
- Only data relevant to virtual health staff were extracted

Results

15 reviews conducted in 1.5 years

Completion time: 1 week to 4 months

- ✓ Supported staff confidence and research literacy
- ✓ Informed care standards and clinical decision support tools
- ✓ Supported service design for the Virtual Hospital at Home Program
- ✓ Contributed to the development of patient education videos
- ✓ Supported the inclusion of telephone calls and text messaging as lower technology care options

Embedding rapid reviews into decision-making can help close the knowledge-to-action gap in virtual health care



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