

# Barriers and Facilitators to Knowledge Uptake

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# Barriers

- ▶ Systematic review of barriers to guideline implementation by physicians
  - 76 trials
  - 293 barriers
  - Include:
    - Lack of awareness of the guideline,
    - Lack of awareness of the recommendations,
    - Lack of agreement with the recommendations
    - Lack of belief that can implement recommendations
    - Presence of external barriers
  
- JAMA 1999;282:1458–65

# Taxonomy of Barriers

Item	Definition
Knowledge: Lack of awareness	Inability to correctly acknowledge the existence
Knowledge: Lack of familiarity	Inability to correctly answer questions about content
Knowledge: Forgetting	Inadvertently omitting recommendation
Attitudes: Lack of agreement with interpretation of evidence	Not believing that elements are supported by evidence
Attitudes: Characteristics of the patient	Lack of agreement with the applicability of the guideline to the practice population based on the characteristics of the patient
Behaviours: Factors associated with patient	Perceived inability to reconcile patient preferences with recommendations
Behaviours: Time pressure	Insufficient time to put recommendation into practice

# Assessment of Barriers / Facilitators

## ▶ Methods

- Surveys (modification of the BARRIERS scale)
- Focus groups
- Interviews
- Direct observation

## ▶ Participants

- All relevant stakeholders: rural/urban, primary care clinicians, radiologists, managers

## ▶ Timing

- Not just prior to implementation

- ▶ Focus groups with PCPs completed to identify barriers and facilitators and to map these to domains of behaviour change
- ▶ Principal barriers include:
  - Beliefs about negative consequences of practising in a manner consistent with guideline recommendations
  - Beliefs about patient preferences or expectations inconsistent with the guideline
  - Limitations in their knowledge
  - Limitations of patient knowledge
  - Social and environmental barriers
    - Impl Sci 2008;3:11