

THE QUEBEC PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK (QPBRN): A PORTRAIT OF SERVICE USERS AND THEIR REQUESTS

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Setting and Participants

- The Quebec Practice-Based Research Network (QPBRN) is dedicated to strengthening primary care research and knowledge transfer. The network brings together patients, clinicians and researchers with the goal of answering clinical questions generated in practice settings.
- All researchers requesting use of the network's services complete a form that gives a description of their project's objectives, methods, funding, start and end dates, need for resources in family practice teaching units (FPTUs), healthcare professionals targeted and proposed advantages for the practice settings. Researchers describe what they need from the PBRN and send all relevant documentation to the network.
- All requests for services submitted to the PBRN by researchers between January 1 and December 31, 2015, were examined. The data was collected in a structured table. A descriptive analysis of completed forms was performed.

Needs and objectives

- One of the Network's objectives is to attract more researchers and new projects so that it can offer a wider variety of services and promote further research activities in FPTUs.
- We sought to identify the institutional affiliations and evaluate the needs and expectations of researchers requiring services from the PBRN.

Description

The following variables sought by the form were examined:

Table 1. Variables description

• Number of requests received
• Number of researchers
• University affiliation of researcher
• What the researcher needed from the PBRN
• Needs in terms of resources in clinical settings
• Nature of support required
• Research project methodology
• Number of clinics required
• Type of healthcare professional involved

Evaluation

Table 2. Researchers requests characteristics in 2015

	Total (%)
Number of requests received by the PBRN	13 (100)
Number of researchers (one researcher made two requests)	12 (100)
Researchers affiliation (university) :	
Université Laval	10 (83.3)
Université de Sherbrooke	1 (8.3)
Université de Toronto	1 (8.3)
Requests for a letter of support from the PBRN in preparation for a grant proposal	12 (92.3)
Requests for needs regarding clinical settings :	
• Team participation in data collection	13 (100)
Requests for material resources :	
• Access to premises	3 (23)
Research project methodology :	
• Projects using mixed methods	7 (53.8)
• Projects using quantitative methods only	3 (23.1)
• Projects using a participatory action research design	1 (7.7)
• Projects using a pragmatic clinical trial design	2 (15.4)
Clinics targeted :	
• Projects not targeting any specific clinics (to be determined depending on the availability and interest of the clinics concerned)	6 (46.1)
• Projects wanting urban clinics only 30.8%	4 (30.8)
• Project targeting the 12 clinics of the PBRN	1 (7.7)
• Project targeting an urban clinic and a rural clinic	1 (7.7)
• Project targeting FPTUs only (not family medicine groups)	1 (7.7)
Number of time healthcare professional were targeted by projects :	
• Family physician	12 (41.4)
• Residents	7 (24.1)
• Nurses	5 (17.25)
• Other healthcare professionals	5 (17.25)

Discussion/Reflection/Lessons Learned

- Service requests are mostly made when researchers are preparing grant applications, with the aim of obtaining a letter of support and facilitating contact with practice settings.
- Once a grant is awarded, researchers seem less interested in being accompanied by the PBRN in their projects.
- Efforts should be made to attract new researchers to the network by promoting the services the PBRN offers to researchers, especially before they make their grant applications.
- Efforts should also be made to identify the needs of primary care researchers and expand the PBRN services to meet their needs and possibly to improve the knowledge transfer in practice settings.



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