Improving Health System Efficiency through Intersectoral Action: Perspectives of Health System Decision-Makers

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Outline

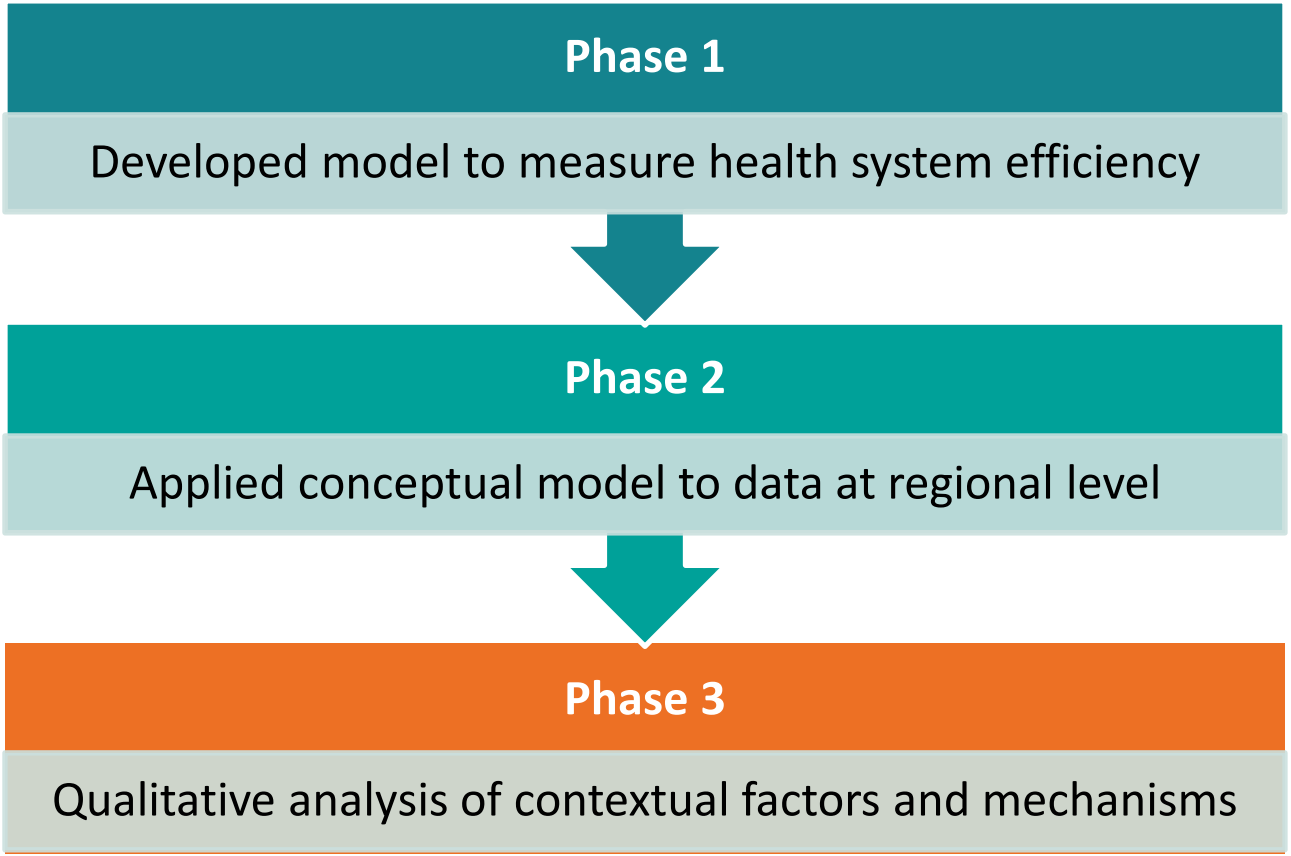
- **Why health system efficiency?**
- **An overview of our project**
- **what role should the health sector play in intersectoral action?**
  - Key examples from our study
  - Challenges with intersectoral action

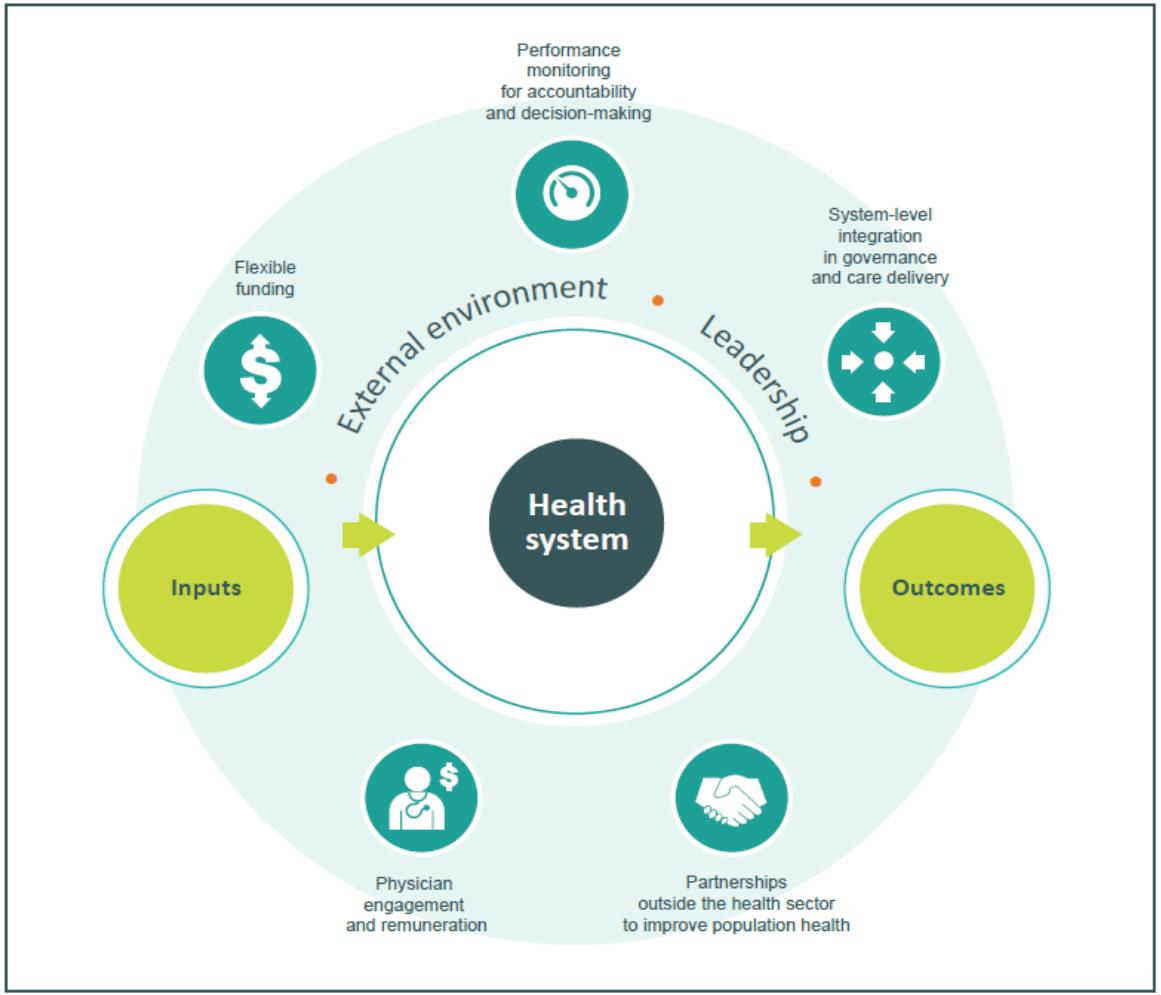
Why Health System Efficiency?

- **Health systems need to make better use of existing resources and improve value for money**
- **Information about key actions and challenges to improving efficiency could support provincial health system performance improvement**
- **Gap in actionable insights for decision-makers in the Canadian context**

multi-phased project at CIHI

Project overview





Conceptual framework for improving health system efficiency

CIHI

Why partnerships?

“We don’t have our hands on even most of the levers in the population health area, and so, our whole approach needs to be a partnered approach to health…so the connections we have to make are those that serve the population, so it is with municipal government and community leaders, that kind of thing…to truly work as partners with us in improving the health of the population.”

British Columbia key informant

Partnership: More efficient use of resources

"Anytime that I work with community members, they always have an ability to do more with less . . . they have the ability to harness that community spirit . . . to do a lot more with the funds that are available than what we could ever do."

Nova Scotia key informant

Example: Health sector as catalyst

"So, as a Health Authority, we don't directly affect very much of the community in terms of the population health directly. We're an influencer. We're a resource. We've got access to a huge amount of data and often if you put the information in front of communities, they can clearly see things they can work on. So, it's about being a catalyst. It's about being a support. It's about being encouraging. We put small amounts of money into some of these projects. We do a grant system for healthy community work but it's not a lot of money. But the impact, I think, down the road is significant."

British Columbia key informant

Example: Community-based primary care

"So, an example would be how we support seniors populations and that is bringing together community-based teams that are connected to the volunteer sector, to the community services sector, to transportation, to seniors safety with the police, and the health system, that really you wrap around all the community assets to support the population and that's when good things happen."

Nova Scotia key informant

Example: Responsibility for intersectoral action

"One of the things our groups in each local municipality are working towards is that active partnership with the mayor and city council. So, in our structure, our chief operating officers and our health service administrators have a responsibility to link with mayors and city councils around the initiatives that are happening within [the health authority] to keep them informed as to health indicators and…if they have a Health Committee, to work with them around promoting healthy living. And so, it's actually in their job description and they do it on a regular basis."

British Columbia key informant

Challenges with intersectoral partnerships

"…and it's a huge task when you're just, when you're a health care facility or health care system and the only way you can achieve that is through partnering with those other organizations. But, they're all constrained as well. So, it's going to take a huge leap of faith to invest more in the primary and prevention and the education and still maintain the funding for the acute care and the people who are sick in the system."

Nova Scotia key informant

Unique opportunities in the rural context

"I think that the region, because we're quite lean and because we don't have all of the resources available in urban centres, we do a very good job, I think, partnering with all the different community partners, if you will. So, we partner with law enforcement. We partner with some of the volunteer associations in these areas."

Nova Scotia key informant

Next steps

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Questions?

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