Sustainability | Individual communication

IC - (21031) - THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATURE-BASED INTERVENTIONS IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

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Background and objectives

Since the benefits of nature are becoming increasingly apparent, healthcare facilities are gradually introducing nature-based interventions (NBIs) to support health and well-being of patients and staff. However, daily practice learns that NBIs are often not used or not used as intended. To optimize the integration in healthcare practice, this study aimed to develop a framework to support effective and sustainable implementation of NBIs in healthcare facilities.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

An online two-round modified Delphi study was conducted, using input of experts (healthcare managers, healthcare staff and green designers) who had been involved in the implementation of NBIs in healthcare facilities. In Round 1, an open-ended survey was administered to identify factors important for the implementation of NBIs. Factors mentioned by 31 experts were thematically analyzed using the Consolidated Framework of Implementation Research (CFIR). Together with literature on both implementation science and NBIs, these results were combined into a new implementation framework suitable for NBIs. In Round 2, experts (N=24) rated the importance of the framework factors based on a five-point scale. Factors with at least 70% consensus about the importance were included in the framework.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

Round 1 revealed a variety of factors important for the implementation of NBIs, including factors related to the design, the organizational context and users. These factors combined with evidence from literature resulted in a framework with 100 factors divided into 5 main domains: the NBI, Inner-, Outer setting, Users and Process. In Round 2, consensus was reached for 89 factors (89%), which were included in the final framework.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

This study resulted in an implementation framework for NBIs in healthcare facilities. This framework is the first to include all relevant aspects for implementation of NBIs, an often overlooked part of the process. It provides professionals a tool to support effective and sustainable implementation of NBIs in healthcare facilities.

Palavras-chave : Healthcare facilities, Nature–based interventions, Health and well being, Sustainable implementation, Delphi