

Guidance on Stakeholder Engagement in Health Evidence Synthesis in Thailand: Preliminary Findings of The Development of a Framework Through Narrative Synthesis of International Guidance

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INTRODUCTION

Stakeholder engagement (SE) in health evidence synthesis is essential for producing evidence and conducting research¹. However, there are no general or specific recommendations for engagement steps that apply to all research activities.

OBJECTIVE

This study aimed to develop a structured, evidence-based, stepwise SE framework and recommendations adapted to the health system context through a targeted literature review of international guidance.

METHODS



1.Search

Conducted a targeted review of guidelines, peer-reviewed databases (e.g., PubMed, Scopus), and grey literature on stakeholder engagement in health evidence synthesis.



2.Extract

Isolated relevant data points (e.g., recommendations) and core principles from the included studies.



3.Develop

Employed a framework synthesis approach, constructing a preliminary conceptual framework made up of key domains (e.g., stakeholder identification, timing of engagement and engagement method).



4.Refine & Recommend

Deductively mapped the extracted data into their corresponding framework domains, using this synthesized structure to finalize the model

RESULTS

Preliminary Guidance Framework

Three relevant articles and two methodological guidance documents (WHO, Cochrane Handbook) were selected from the targeted search. From the framework synthesis, the framework for the engagement of stakeholders is designed in two parts:

1.Steps and Recommendations (Phase-Specific Guidance)

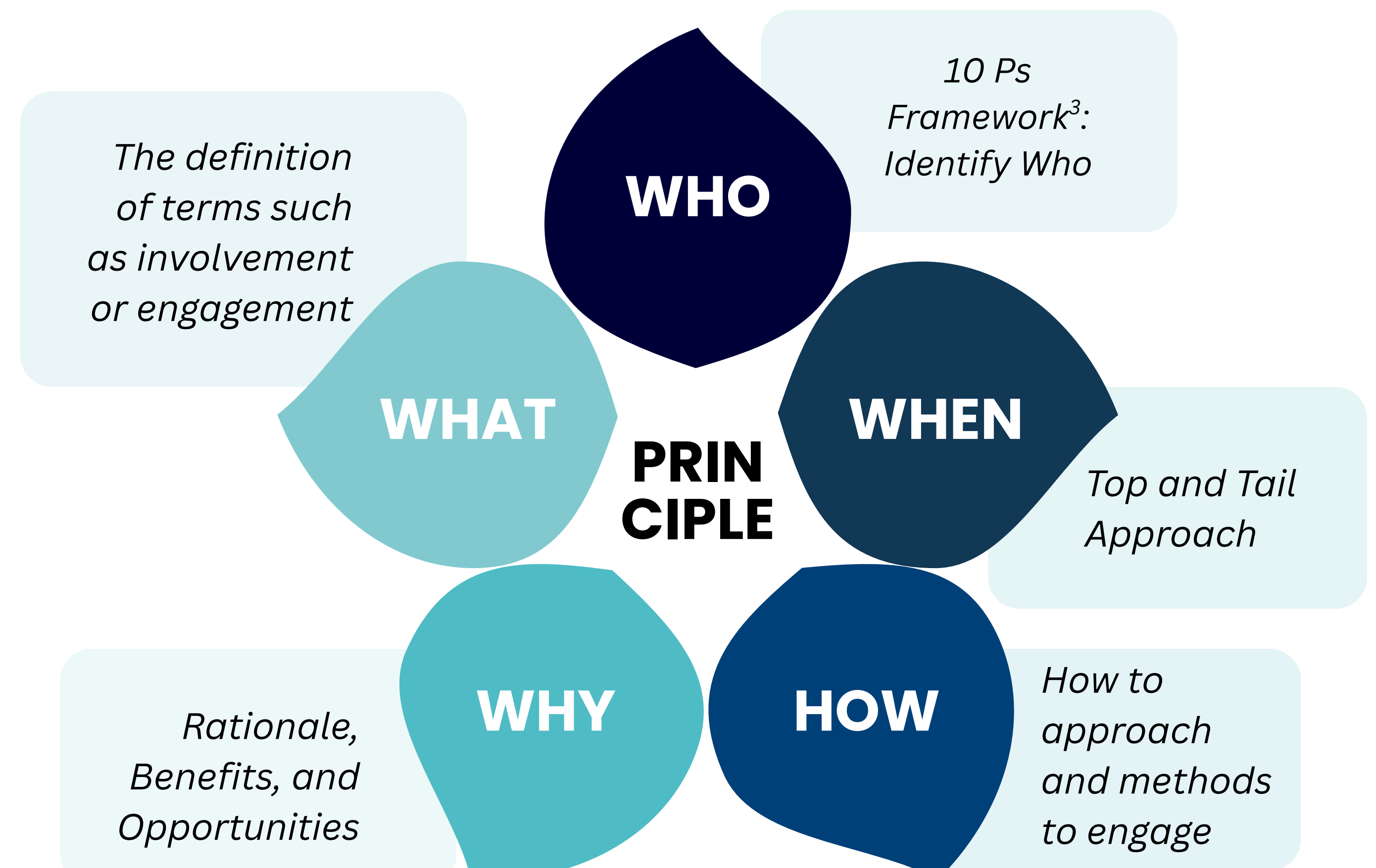
- **Purpose:** Provides a guide for including stakeholder engagement in specific phases of the health evidence synthesis process.
- **Scope:** Focused on the phases of planning the study (beginning) and disseminating (end) of the research.



There are **no general or specific steps recommendations** of engagement that apply to **all research activities**

2.Core Principles (General Framework)

- **Purpose:** Provides a preliminary framework on stakeholder engagement that can be applied throughout the entire research process.
- **Core Components:** Consists of five components: What, Who, When, Why, and How.



CONCLUSION

This framework provides the preliminary of structured, internationally grounded SE approach. Prospective Delphi validation with experts and empirical evaluation in HTA and guideline development processes is recommended.

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