

AMERICAN HIPPO THERAPY ASSOCIATION

BACKGROUND ON RESEARCH



Note. Definitions from Foundations of Clinical Research: Applications to Practice, 3rd ed. Portney & Watkins 2009.

Types of Research

Experimental research: refers to investigations where the researcher manipulates and controls one or more variables and observes the resultant variation in other variables; this type of research provides a basis for comparing two or more conditions for the purpose of determining cause and effect relationships.

Examples Include:

Randomized controlled trial (RCT) design: this design involved the controlled comparison of an experimental intervention and a placebo.

Single-subject design: this design involves the systematic study of one or several individuals within the clinical environment; this design also examines cause of outcomes.

Nonexperimental research: refers to investigations that are generally more descriptive or exploratory in nature and that do not exhibit direct control over the studied variables.

Examples Include:

Observational design: phenomenon under investigation is observed rather than manipulated.

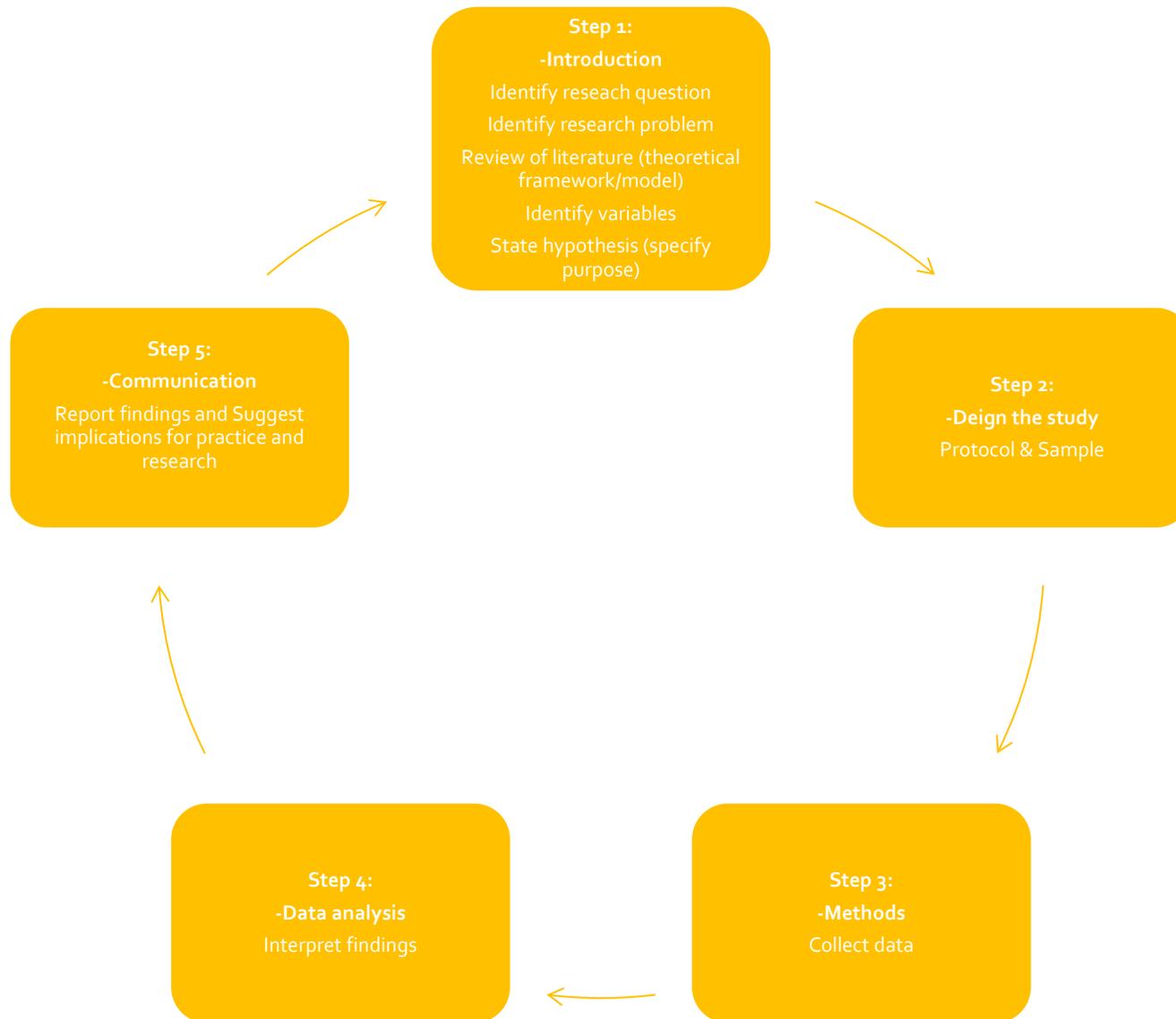
Cohort and Case-control designs: examine associations to describe and predict risks for certain conditions.

Correlation methods: explore relationships to generate predictions that these relationships suggest.

Descriptive research: refers to a description of a group of individuals on a set of variables, to document their characteristics.

Developmental research: refers to investigations that focus on patterns of growth and change over time with selected segments of a population, or it may chronicle the natural history of a disease or disability.

Case study or Case series designs: type of qualitative research that may consist of a description of one or several patients, to document unusual conditions of the effect of intervention.



Note. A Model of Research Process from Foundations of Clinical Research: Applications to Practice, 3rd ed. Portney & Watkins 2009.

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Research Resource for Understanding, Reviewing, and Conducting Research

Equator Network—Enhancing the Quality and Transparency of Health Research

The UK EQUATOR Centre is hosted by the Centre for Statistics in Medicine, NDORMS, University of Oxford.

<http://www.equator-network.org/>

Online resource includes reporting guidelines for main study types referenced above, courses and events, and toolkits to provide practical help in writing research, peer-reviewing research, teaching research skills, and selecting appropriate reporting guidelines.