# How Do I Know If an Innovation Is Usable?

A key step prior to the implementation of any new intervention or service is to confirm that it is a **usable innovation**. According to the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN), usable innovations are "effective and well-operationalized. An innovation needs to be teachable, learnable, doable, and readily assessed in practice if it is to be used effectively to reach all [patients] who could benefit."[1] These characteristics are critical for ensuring consistent delivery of the innovation, guiding the assessment of fidelity to the innovation, and facilitating the replication and scale of the innovation.

The *Usable Innovation* framework requires **four key components** to ensure the innovation is usable and effective.

1. A clear description of the innovation and the guiding principles, values, and overarching philosophy underlying the innovation

2. Well-defined essential functions or core components of the innovation (i.e., elements of the innovation believed to be associated with the innovation's effectiveness)

3. Operational definitions for how to implement each essential function in real-world setting

4. Evidence of effectiveness through fidelity assessments and measures of clinical impact

For **Comprehensive Medication Management (CMM),** the CMM in Primary Care study helped ensure CMM is a usable innovation by defining the CMM Philosophy of Practice,[2] developing The Patient Care Process for Delivering Comprehensive Medication Management (CMM) (wherein the essential functions and operational definitions of CMM are fully defined),[3] and creating a fidelity assessment to ensure consistent delivery of CMM.[4]

This system relies on these tools for effective implementation of CMM. In Step 4 (Assess Your Foundations) of the Implementation System we will introduce you to these tools and guide you through use of each of them.
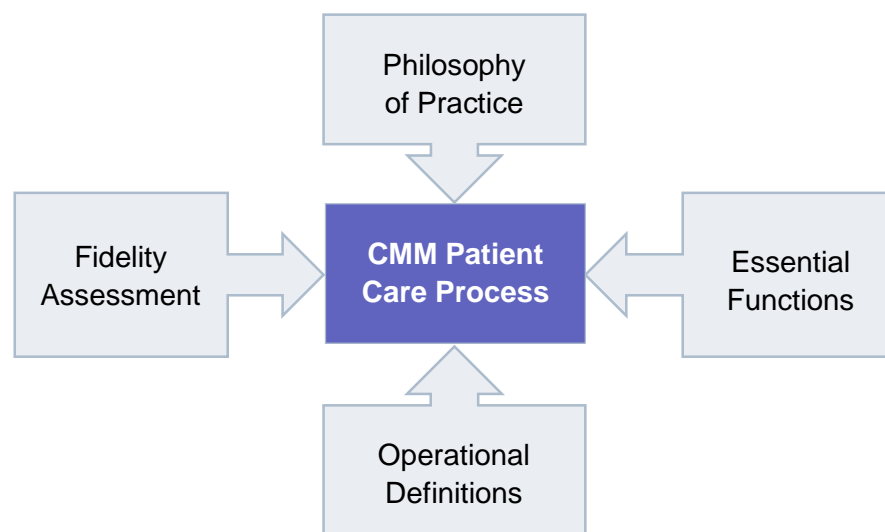
1) Fixsen, D, et al. (2005). *Implementation Research: A Synthesis of the Literature.* Tamps, FL: University of South Florida, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, National Implementation Research Network.; 2) Pestka DL, et al. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2018; 38(1): 69-79. 3) The Patient Care Process for Delivering Comprehensive Medication Management (CMM): Optimizing Medication Use in Patient-Centered, Team-Based Care Settings. CMM in Primary Care Research Team. July 2018. Available at http://www.accp.com/cmm_care_process. 4) The *CMM Patient Care Process Self-Assessment* can be found in Step 4 of the *CMM Implementation System*.