

# What is a Practice-Based Research Network and Why Would I Join One?

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# Disclaimer

- Dr. Korsen has no relevant financial relationships with ineligible entities (e.g., commercial organizations)

# Overview

- What is a Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN)?
- Why is Practice-Based Research important in primary care?
- What are the benefits to family physicians from participating in PBRNs?
- How can I get involved in a PBRN?

# What is a Practice Based Research Network?

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality defines a **primary care practice-based research network**, or PBRN, as:
  - A group of ambulatory practices *devoted principally to the primary care of patients*, and
  - Affiliated in their mission to investigate *questions related to community-based practice* and to improve the quality of primary care.
- **They are laboratories for studying primary care**

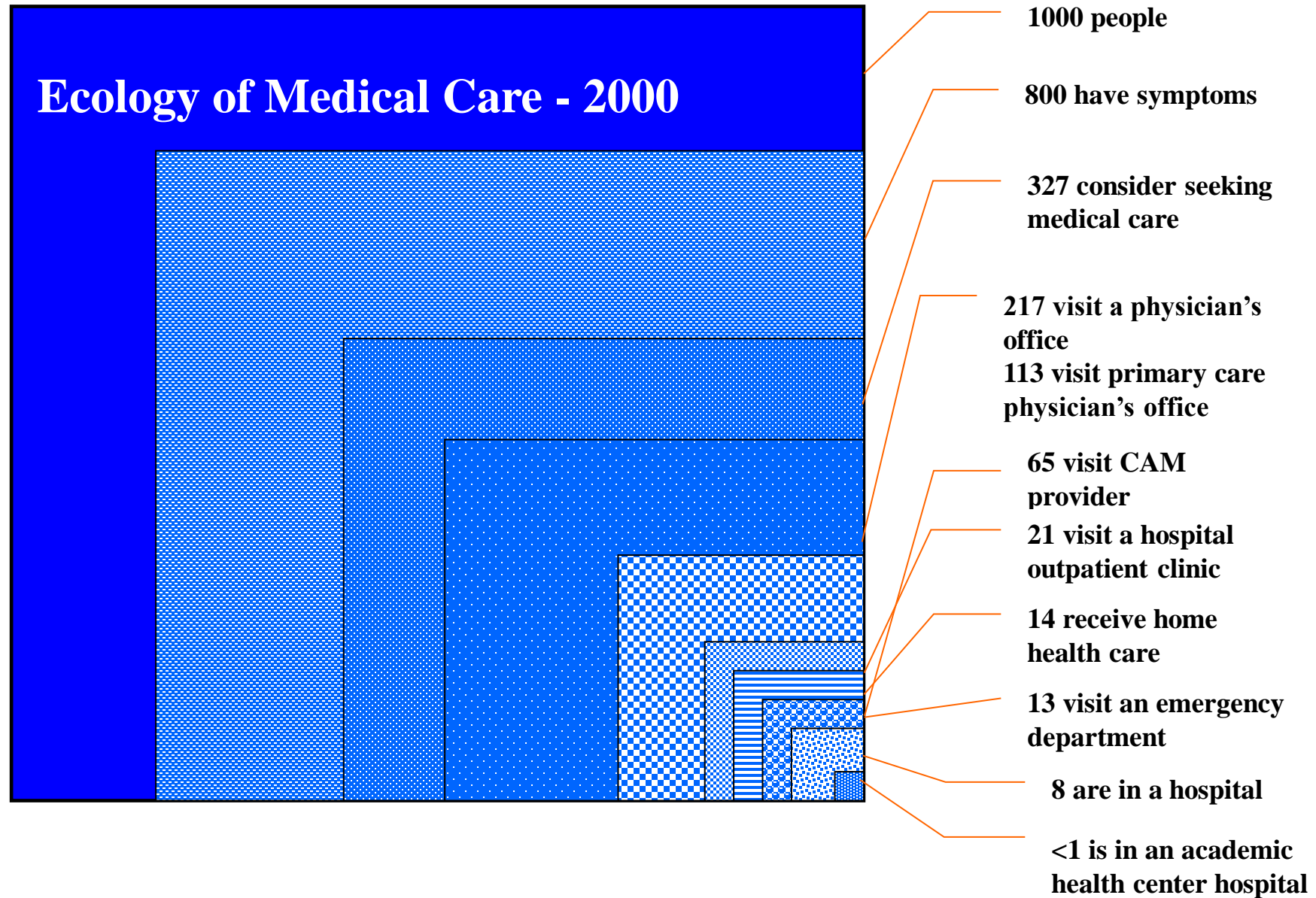


# Why Practice-Based Research?

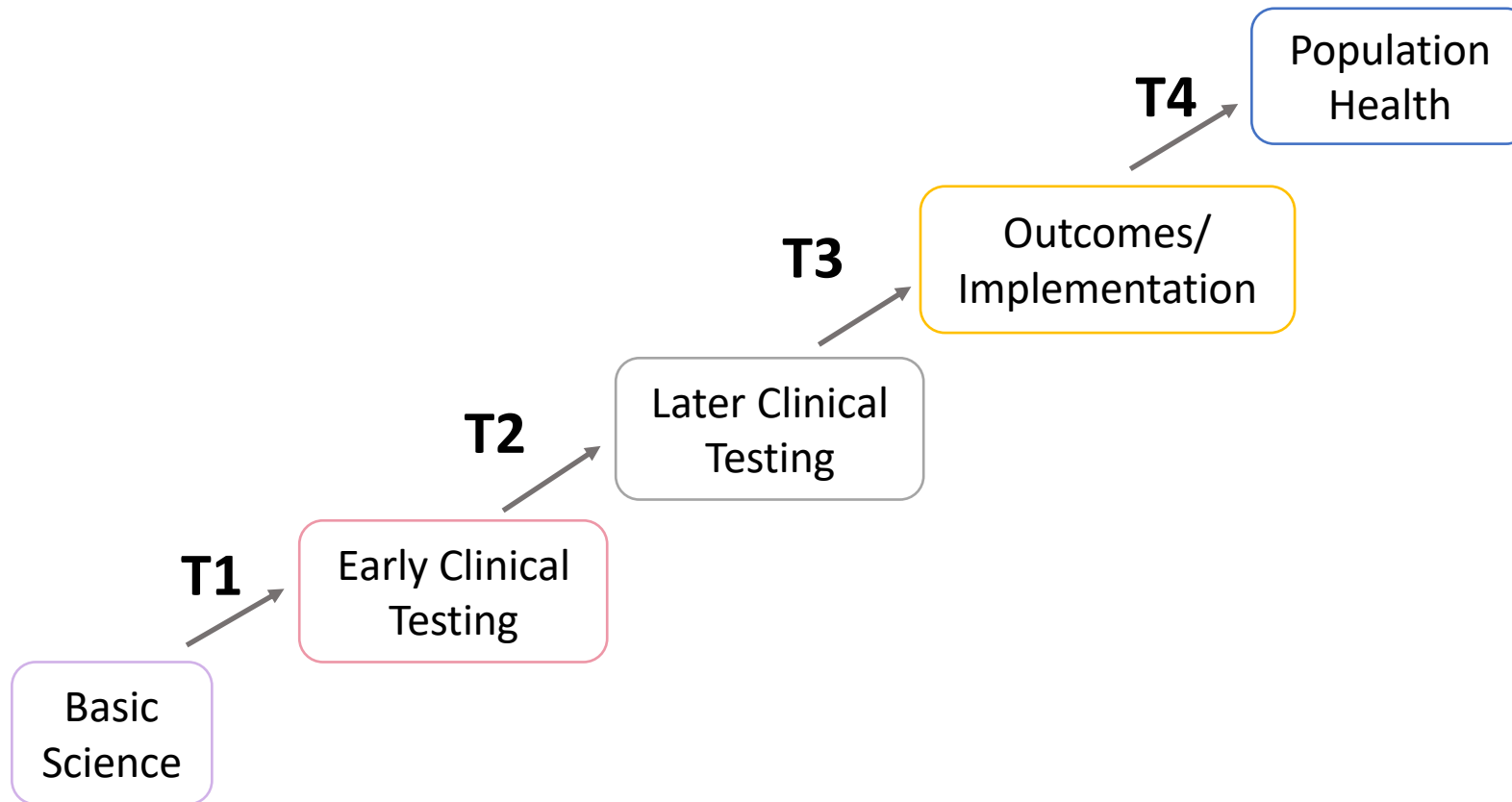
*“If we want more evidence-based practice,  
we need more practice-based evidence.”*

L.W. Green, MPH, Dr.PH,  
University of California, San Francisco

# In an average month: KW Boxes 2000



# Translational Research Continuum





*“it is inherently improbable that an academic researcher can ask a clinical question that matters to a patient.”*



# Reasons a Clinician Might Do Practice-Based Research

- Personal satisfaction
- Improving care in one's own practice/organization
- Contributing to knowledge about primary care and improving primary care generally

• -Fagnan et al, JABFM, 2010

# Reasons an Organization Might Benefit from Participating in a PBRN

- There is evidence that clinicians who participate in a PBRN are more professionally satisfied and are more likely to stay in their practices.
  - Sinclair-Lian N et al, J Am Board Fam Med 2008

## Dartmouth/Northern New England CO-OP PBRN

- Oldest PBRN in existence, started in the 1970's
- Members involved in decisions about research questions and project design
- Studies designed to fit into busy practice settings



## Some examples of CO-OP Projects

- Revisit Interval Card Study (1980's)
- Office Systems for Cancer Screening (1990's)
- Nurse-Led Annual Wellness Visit Implementation (2010's)

# Maine AFP members involved in the CO-OP

- As an early-career family physician and researcher, the value of a strong and supportive support network like the NNE Co-Op cannot be understated. I have built new relationships across health systems and states, and have even found collaborators for medical education and research.
  - Brendan Prast, Portland
- As a practicing family medicine doctor, I believe research is key to improving care for our patients and for ourselves. Being a member of the CO-OP has allowed me to stay connected to a research network, gain necessary skills in research, and find opportunities to collaborate on new programs and ideas.
  - Darlene Peterson, Westbrook
- The CO-OP does interesting and important research that matters to primary care close to home. Also provides a supportive community to learn from and grow skills with over time. Plus once a year you can dip in a pool when no sane person would consider doing so!
  - Greg Feero, Fairfield

# 44TH NNE CO-OP PCBRN

## ANNUAL MEETING

Grand Summit Hotel at Attitash, NH  
January 26-28, 2024



POSTER SESSION



SEMINARS



WORKSHOPS



[The NNE CO-OP Annual Meeting](#) brings together 100+ healthcare professionals, students, and researchers to discuss current topics affecting healthcare in New England.

This year's theme is on "Revitalizing Primary Care" where we will explore the pressing challenges in accessibility, quality, and sustainability that demand transformative change for primary care to effectively meet evolving needs.

**2025 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SAME LOCATION**  
**JANUARY 24-26, 2025**



SCAN ME

## QUESTIONS?

- If interested in learning more about the CO-OP, contact me at [neil.korsen@mainehealth.org](mailto:neil.korsen@mainehealth.org)