

# ACCEPTABILITY & FEASIBILITY OF A DISCHARGE PLANNING TOOL IN UGANDAN NEUROSURGICAL TRANSITIONAL CARE

## The Team



Research team of faculty and students from Duke University (USA) and Mbarara University of Science & Technology (Uganda)



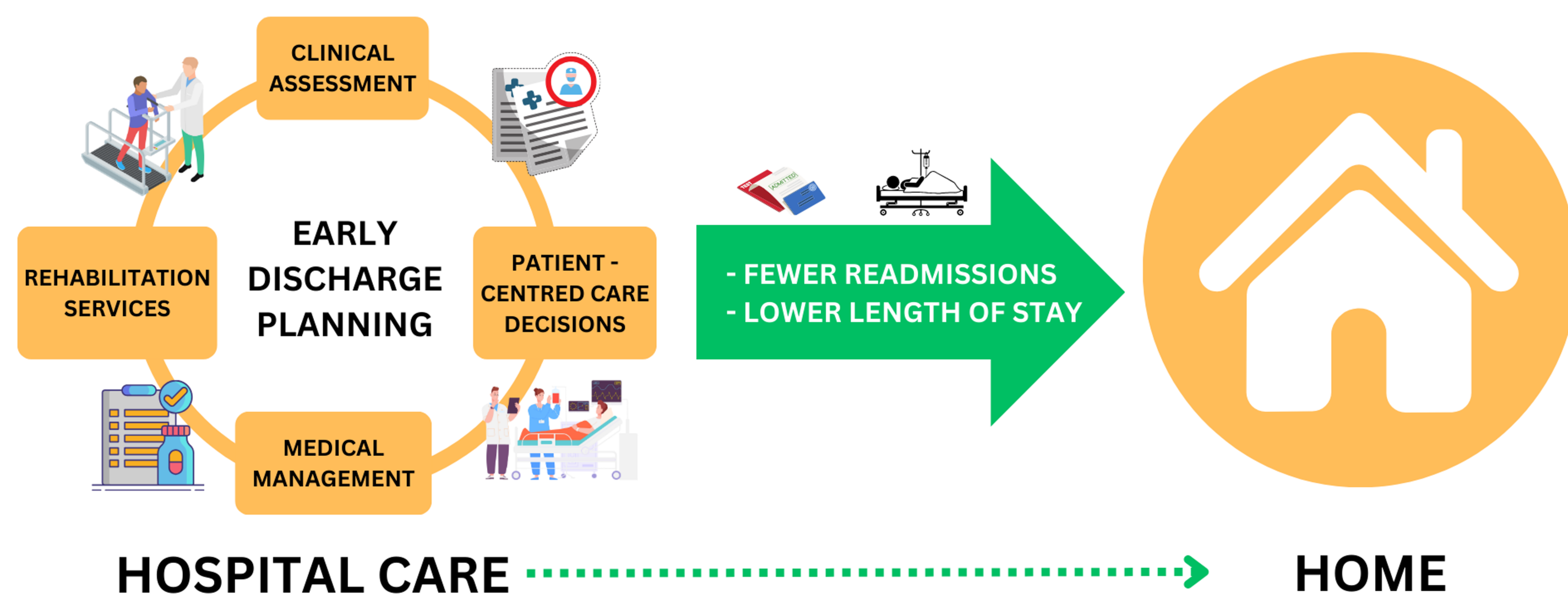
Expert Consultant Group of neurosurgeons, residents, nurses, and physiotherapists involved in TBI care at two Ugandan hospitals



## Background

- Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs) are a leading cause of hospital admission in Uganda.<sup>1</sup>
- Rehabilitation services address complications from TBI to recover functional mobility and/or manage new or worsened disability.<sup>2</sup>
- Physiotherapy (PT) is the most widely available rehabilitation service in Ugandan hospitals.<sup>3</sup>
- Discharge planning is advised during care transitions to optimize patient adherence to care instructions and referrals along the care pathway.

Figure 1: Further Background



## Purpose & Objectives

### Purpose:

To assess the acceptability and feasibility of implementing a new discharge planning tool for care of persons with a TBI at two Uganda hospitals that promotes post-hospital physiotherapy follow-up.

### Objectives:

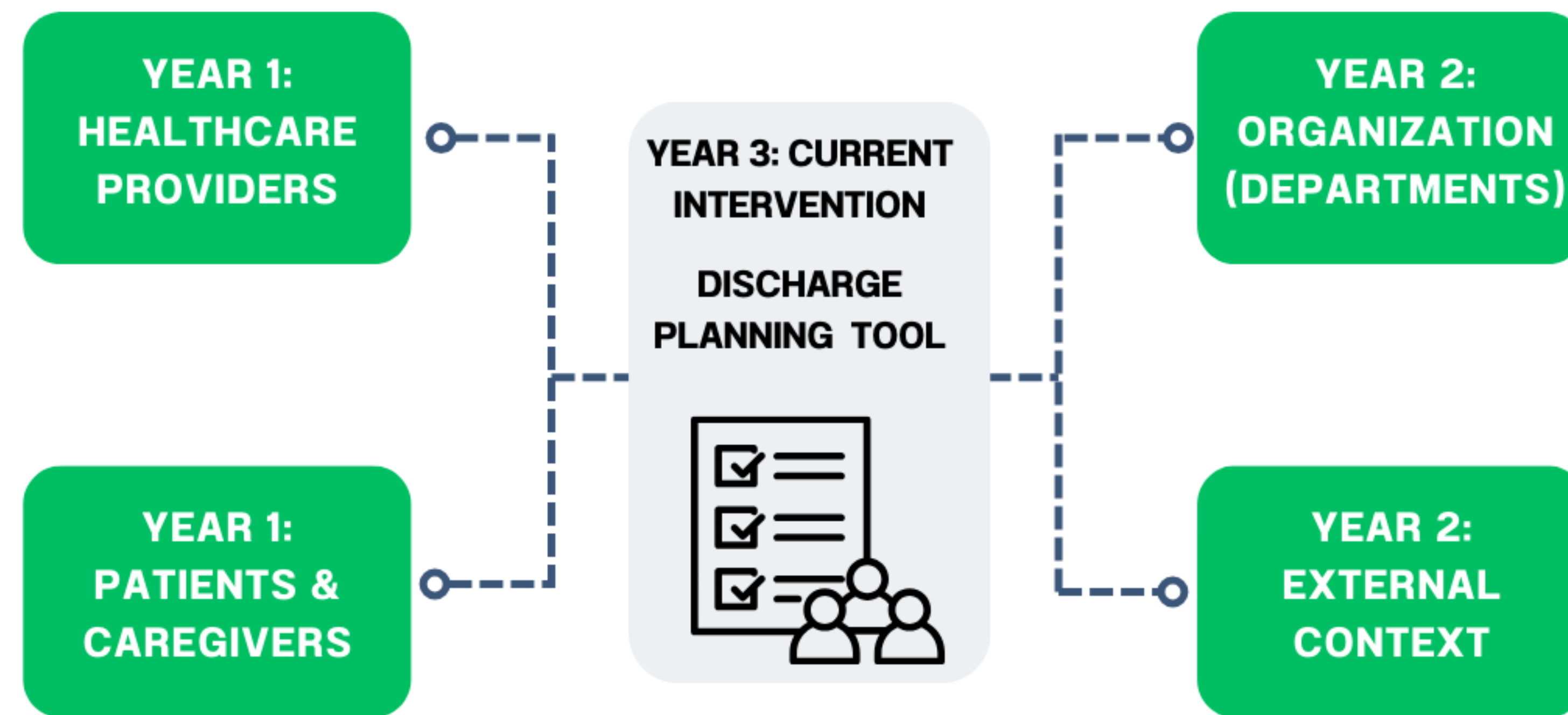
- To assess acceptability and feasibility of utilizing the discharge planning tool among TBI providers.
- To assess the data quality of discharge planning tool in medical files in two hospital wards.

## Current Intervention + Past Bass Connections Research

Figure 2: Current Intervention and Findings of Past Bass Connections Research

Careful tool coordination, workforce availability, patient contact time, and early integration of rehabilitation will affect multidisciplinary care team utilization of a discharge planning tool.

Patient & Caregiver knowledge of rehabilitation purpose and hospital processes + access to resources affects discharge planning participation.



Departmental resources, including workforce, and opportunities for collaborative training affect implementation of a discharge planning tool.\*

Presence of Outpatient PT facilities & workforce, lack of referrals in current practice, political support, financial constraints, and societal beliefs/stigmas may affect success of discharge planning.\*

### What is the discharge planning tool?

A form that will record details of mobility status and post-hospital rehabilitation needs throughout care.

### Who will use the discharge planning tool?

Providers including neurosurgeons, nurses, and physiotherapists will communicate rehabilitation recommendations and patient/caregiver decisions.

\*Preliminary Result

## Methods & Tools

- Multi-year project centered around the Care Transition Framework (CTF) (Fig 3).
- A two-part study will first utilize a qualitative assessment of acceptability and feasibility with providers and then further assess feasibility through a data quality assessment of medical files (Fig. 4).

Figure 3: Care Transition Framework<sup>4</sup>

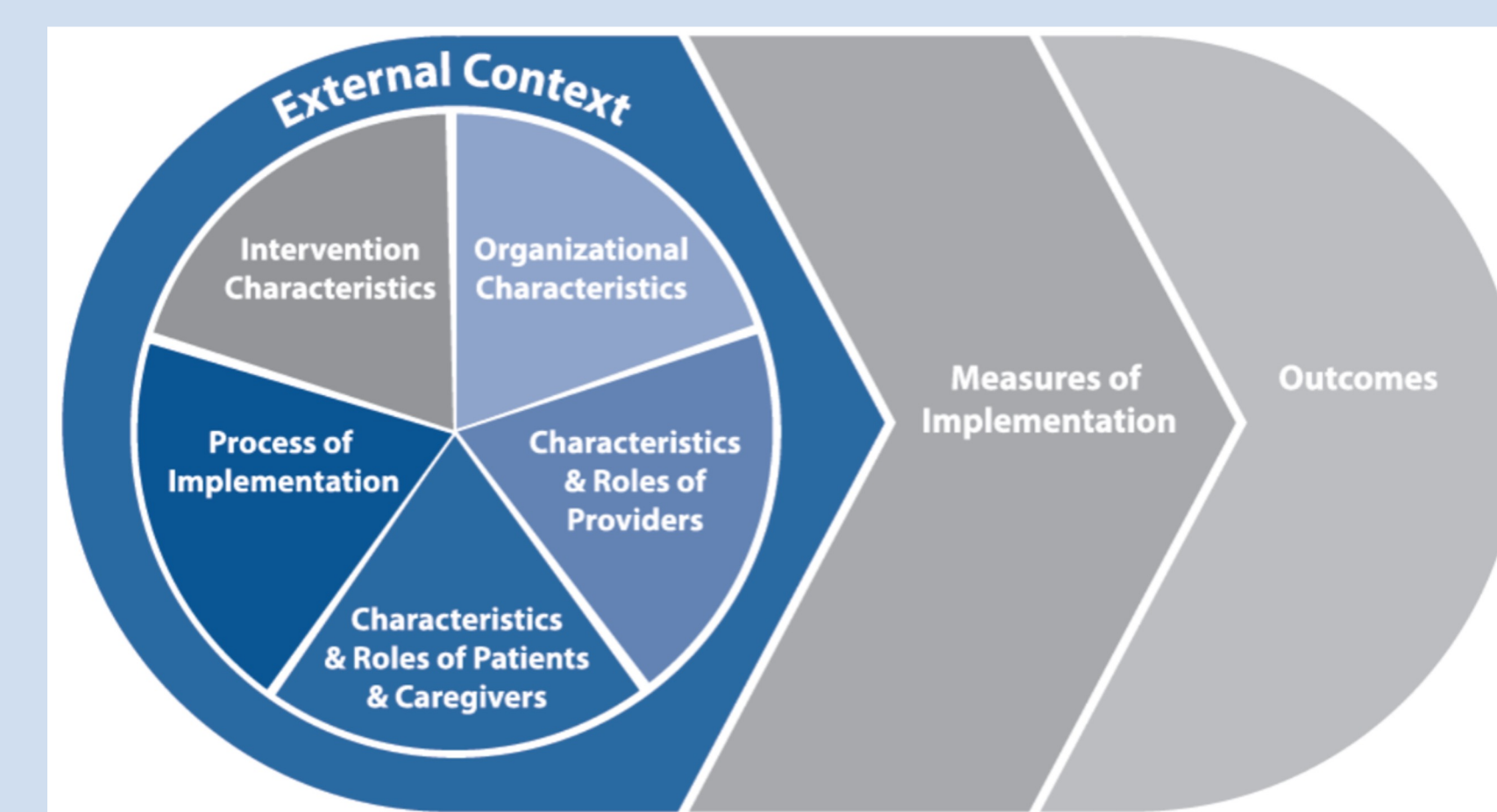
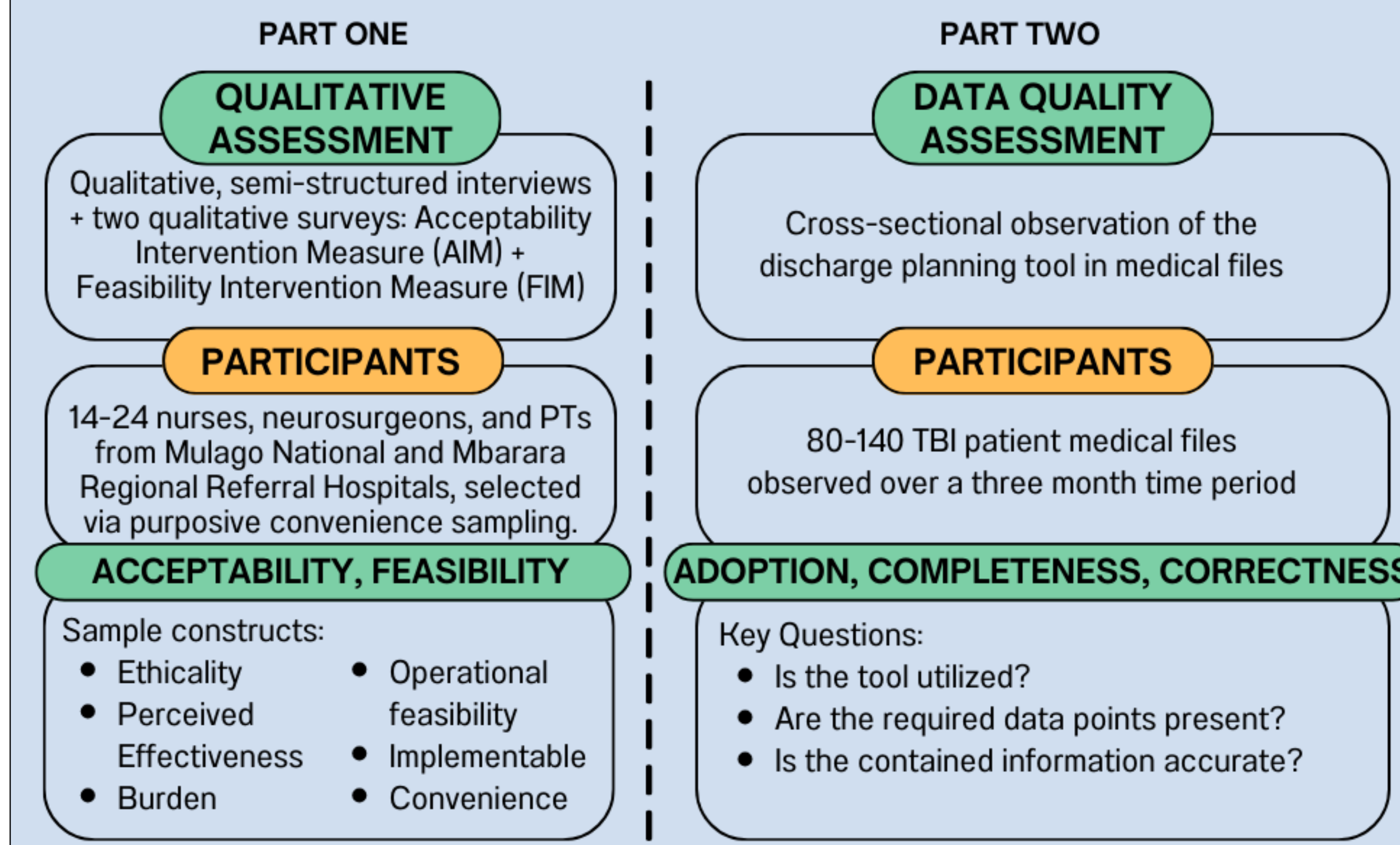


Figure 4: Design, Participants, and Study Variables



## Analysis Plan

- Interviews will be transcribed and de-identified for thematic analysis.
- AIM and FIM<sup>5</sup> surveys each have four-items that will be measured as agreement along a Likert scale.
- Data quality assessment will assess 'adoption' as percent of files where the discharge planning tool was utilized, 'completeness' as the percentage of all required data elements that are present, and 'correctness' as the percentage of values that are recorded correctly.<sup>6</sup>
- 'Correctness' will only measure values where it is possible to discern accuracy through medical file observation.

## Potential Implications

Results of this study will inform the ability to:

- Utilize a discharge planning tool to promote multidisciplinary care coordination for rehabilitation referrals.
- Expand the discharge planning tool to other Ugandan public hospitals.
- Include other rehabilitation services in the discharge planning tool.
- Promote discharge planning for other conditions outside of TBIs.

## References

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