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Typology of Reviews

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MSc in Medical Library and Information Sciences

Sirjan School of Medical Sciences

1401

Aims of Workshop

- To highlight the importance of review studies
- To give a general overview of various types of reviews
- To briefly introduce most popular types of reviews

Review

- Definition: “To view, inspect, or examine a second time or again”
- Noble & Smith. 2018, Reviewing the literature: choosing a review design
- Lau & Kuziemsky, 2016, Handbook of eHealth evaluation: an evidence-based approach.
- Pere et al. 2015, Synthesizing Information systems knowledge: a typology of literature reviews
- Grant & Booth, 2009, A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methologies.
- Cochrane Handbook-http://training.Cochrane.org/handbook

DOI: 10.1111/j.1471-1842.2009.00848.x

Review Article

A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies

Maria J. Grant* & Andrew Booth†, *Salford Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Collaborative Research (SCNMCR), University of Salford, Salford, UK, †School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR), University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Abstract

Background and objectives: The expansion of evidence-based practice across sectors has lead to an increasing variety of review types. However, the diversity of terminology used means that the full potential of these review types may be lost amongst a confusion of indistinct and misapplied terms. The objective of this study is to provide descriptive insight into the most common types of reviews, with illustrative examples from health and health information domains.

Methods: Following scoping searches, an examination was made of the vocabulary associated with the literature of review and synthesis (literary

Resources

- Grant & Booth, 2009, A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methologies.

Resources

- Pere et al. 2015, Synthesizing Information systems knowledge: a typology of literature reviews

G Model
INFMAN-2755; No. of Pages 17
ARTICLE IN PRESS

Information & Management xxx (2014) xxx–xxx

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Information & Management

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/im

Synthesizing information systems knowledge: A typology of literature reviews

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ABSTRACT

In this article we develop a typology of review types and provide a descriptive insight into the most common reviews found in top IS journals. Our assessment reveals that the number of IS reviews has increased over the years. The majority of the 139 reviews are theoretical in nature, followed by narrative reviews, meta-analyses, descriptive reviews, hybrid reviews, critical reviews, and scoping reviews.

Resources

- Noble & Smith. 2018, Reviewing the literature: choosing a review design

Check for updates

Reviewing the literature: choosing a review design

Helen Noble,[1] Joanna Smith[2]

10.1136/eb-2018-102895

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[2]School of Healthcare, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK

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Many health professionals, students and academics including health researchers will have grappled with the challenges of undertaking a review of the literature and choosing a suitable design or framework to structure the review. For many undergraduate and master's healthcare students their final year dissertation involves undertaking a review of the literature as a way of assessing their understanding and ability to critique and apply research findings to practice. For PhD and Master's by Research students, a rigorous summary of research is usually expected to identify the state of knowledge and gaps in the evidence related to their topic focus and to provide justification for the empirical work they subsequently undertake. From discussions with students and colleagues, there appears to be much confusion about review designs and in particular the use and perhaps misuse of the term 'systematic review'. For example, some quantitatively focused researchers subscribe to a 'Cochrane' approach as the only method to undertake a 'systematic review', with other researchers having a to reviewing the literature has expanded to reflect broader types of evidence/research designs and questions reflecting the increased complexity of healthcare. While this should be welcomed, this adds to the challenges in choosing the best review approach/design that meets the purpose of the review.

What approaches can be adopted to review the evidence?

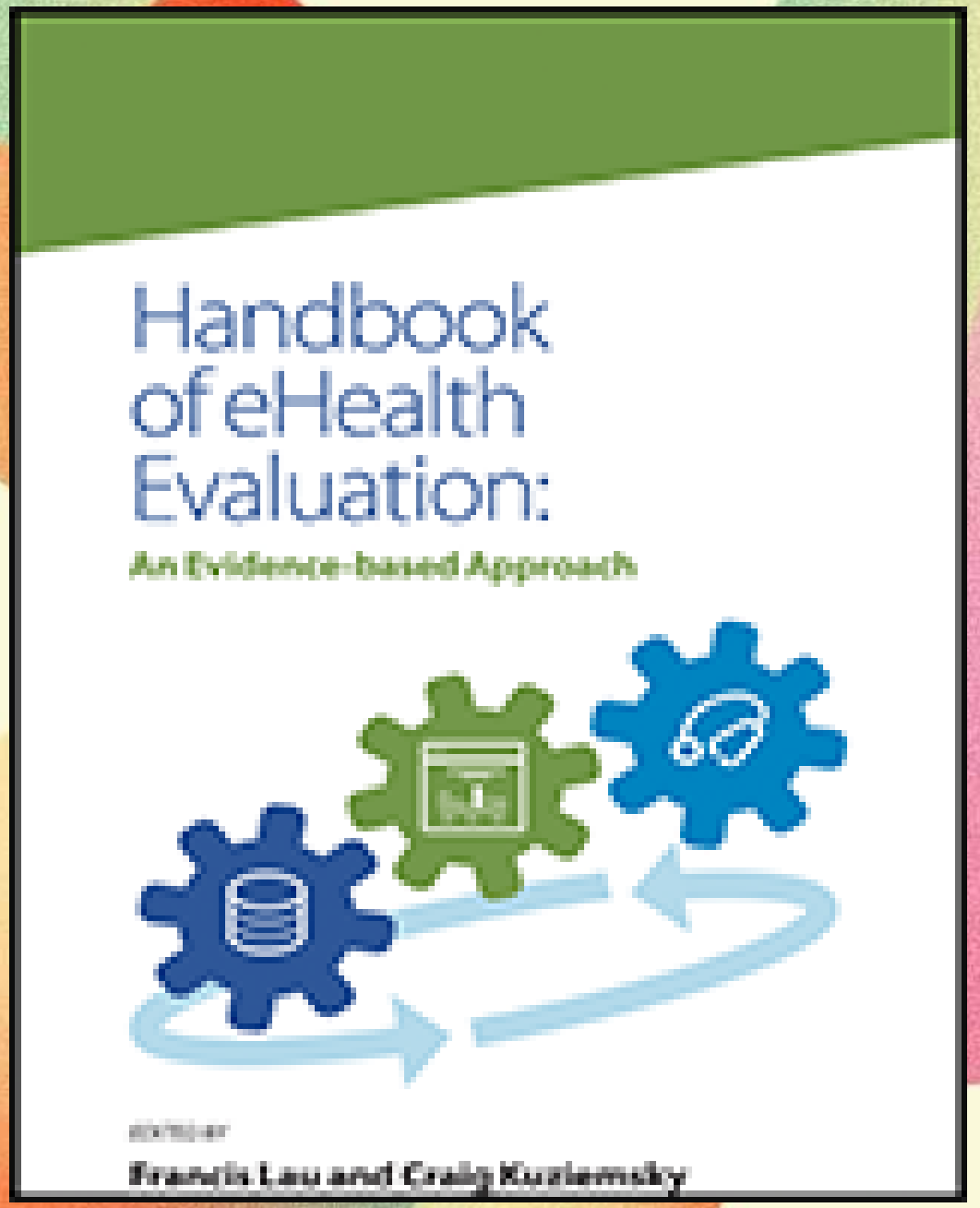
In 2009, a typology of reviews was published, identifying 14 types of reviews[7] to which realist and integrative reviews can now be added. Table 1 highlights some of the more common reviews of the literature undertaken in healthcare.

Conclusion

In summary, we have identified and described a variety of review designs and offered reasons for choosing a specific approach. Reviews are vital research method-

Resources

- Cochrane Handbook- http://training.Cochrane.org/handbook



Literature reviews are essential for:

- Identifying **what has been written** on a subject or topic;
- Identifying **research gaps**;
- Determining trends or patterns **in a specific research area**;
- **Aggregating empirical findings** related to a narrow research question to support evidence-based practice;
- Generating **new frameworks and theories**.

(Pere et al. 2015)

How Important Are Review Studies?

Clinical Importance

Practice Guideline > Radiology. 2021 Feb;298(2):E63-E69. doi: 10.1148/radiol.2020203173. Epub 2020 Jul 30.

Use of Chest Imaging in the Diagnosis and Management of COVID-19: A WHO Rapid Advice Guide

Elie A Akl [1], Ivana Blažić [1], Sally Yaacoub [1], Guy Frija [1], Roger Chou [1], John Adabie Appiah [1], Mansoor Fatehi [1], Nicola Flor [1], Eveline Hitti [1], Hussain Jafri [1], Zheng-Yu Jin [1], Hans Ulrich Kauczor [1], Michael Kawooya [1], Ella Annabelle Kazerooni [1], Jane P Ko [1], Rami Mahfouz [1], Valdair Muglia [1], Rose Nyabanda [1], Marcelo Sanchez [1], Priya B Shete [1], Marina Ulla [1], Chuansheng Zheng [1], Emilie van Deventer [1], Maria Del Rosario Perez [1]

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 32729811 PMCID: PMC7393953 DOI: 10.1148/radiol.2020203173

Free PMC article

Abstract

The World Health Organization (WHO) undertook the development of a rapid guide on the use of chest imaging in the diagnosis and management of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The rapid guide was developed over 2 months by using standard WHO processes, except for the use of "rapid reviews" and online meetings of the panel. The evidence review was supplemented by a survey of

International Guldline

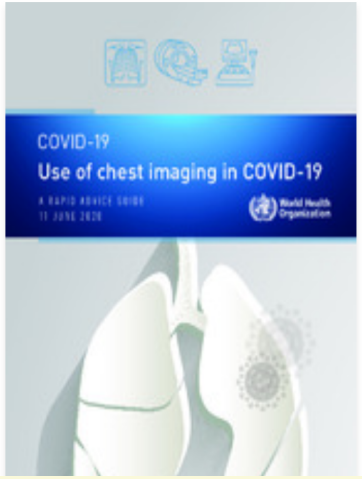
World Health Organization

Health Topics | Countries | Newsroom | Emergencies | Data | About WHO

Home / Publications / Overview / Use of chest imaging in COVID-19: a rapid advice guide, 11 June 2020

Use of chest imaging in COVID-19: a rapid advice guide, 11 June 2020

11 June 2020 | COVID-19: Clinical care



Overview

This rapid advice guide examines the evidence and makes recommendations for the use of chest imaging in acute care of adult patients with suspected, probable or confirmed COVID-19. Imaging modalities considered are radiography, computed tomography and ultrasound. This guide addresses the care pathway from presentation of the patient to a health facility to patient discharge. It considers different levels of disease severity, from asymptomatic individuals to critically ill patients. Accounting for variations in the benefits and harms of chest imaging in different situations, remarks are provided to describe the circumstances under which each recommendation would benefit patients. The guide also includes implementation considerations for different settings, provides suggestions for impact monitoring and evaluation and identifies

WHO TEAM

Radiation and health

EDITORS

WHO

NUMBER OF PAGES

42

REFERENCE NUMBERS

WHO REFERENCE NUMBER:

WHO/2019-nCoV/Clinical/Radiology_

Review Studies?

Review article

- Is **a journal-length paper** which has in a field, without collecting or analyzing any primary data.
- Is a journal-length paper which has an overarching purpose to **synthesize the literature** in a field.
- Review papers are cited and downloaded more often than any other type of published article.

(Cronin et al. 2008; Montori et al. 2003; Patsopoulos et al. 2005)

Literature Review Process and Steps:

- **Formulating** the research question(s) and objective(s)
- **Searching** the extant literature;
- **Screening** for inclusion;
- **Assessing** the quality of primary studies;
- **Extracting** data;
- **Analyzing** data.

(Pere et al. 2015)

Typology of Literature Reviews: 14 Review Types

1. Clinical review
2. Literature review
3. Mapping review
4. Meta-analysis
5. Mixed studies review/ mixed methods review
6. Overview
7. Qualitative systematic review/ Qualitative evidence synthesis
8. Rapid review
9. Scoping review
10. State of the art review
11. Systematic review
12. Systematic and search review
13. Systematized review
14. Umbrella review

(Grant & Booth, 2009)

Typology of Literature Reviews (in IS)

1. Narrative review
2. Descriptive
3. Scoping review
4. Meta-analysis
5. Qualitative systematic review
6. Umbrella review
7. Theoretical review
8. Realist review
9. Critical review

(Pere et al. 2015)

Typology of Literature Reviews

1. Narrative review
2. Descriptive
3. Scoping review
4. Systematic review
5. Umbrella review
6. Realist review
7. Critical review

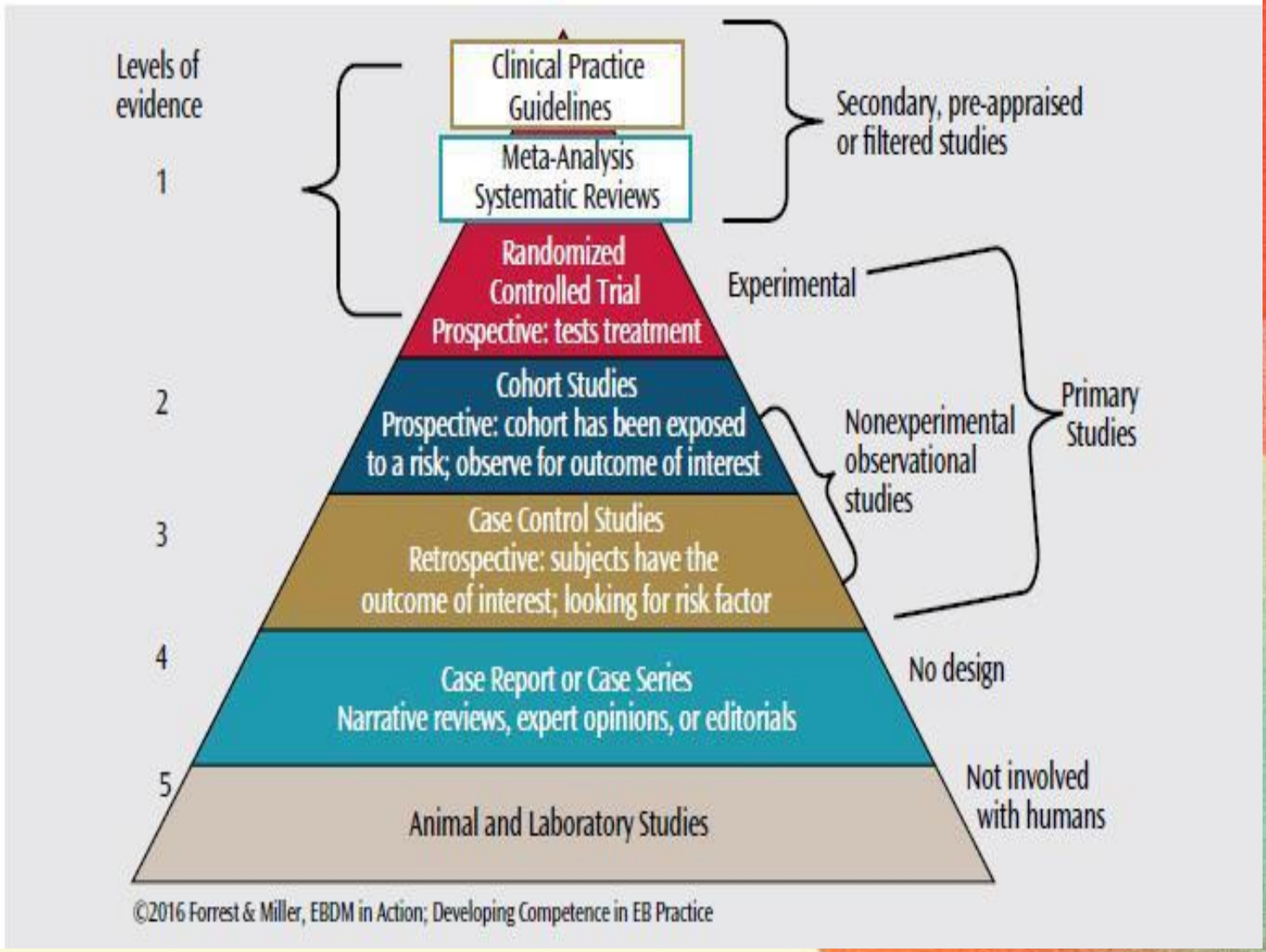
(Lau & Kuziemsky, 2016)

Typology of Literature Reviews

1. Systematic review
2. Rapid evidence assessment
3. Scoping review
4. Integrative review
5. Realist review
6. Narrative review
7. Review or reviews/umbrella review

(Noble & Smith, 2018)

Level of Evidence



8 Types of Most Popular Review

1. Narrative Review

Narrative Review

Description	-Provide examination of recent or current literature.. -Cover wide range of subjects at various levels of completeness and comprehensiveness. -May include research findings. -But does not seek generalization or cumulative knowledge from what is reviewed.
Search	-May or may not include comprehensive searching. -Selective in nature. -Authors usually select studies that support their own view.
Appraisal	-May or may not include quality assessment. -no formal quality or risk of bias assessment of included primary studies is required.
Synthesis	Typically, narrative
Analysis	Using thematic analysis, chronological frameworks, content analysis or other classification criteria.

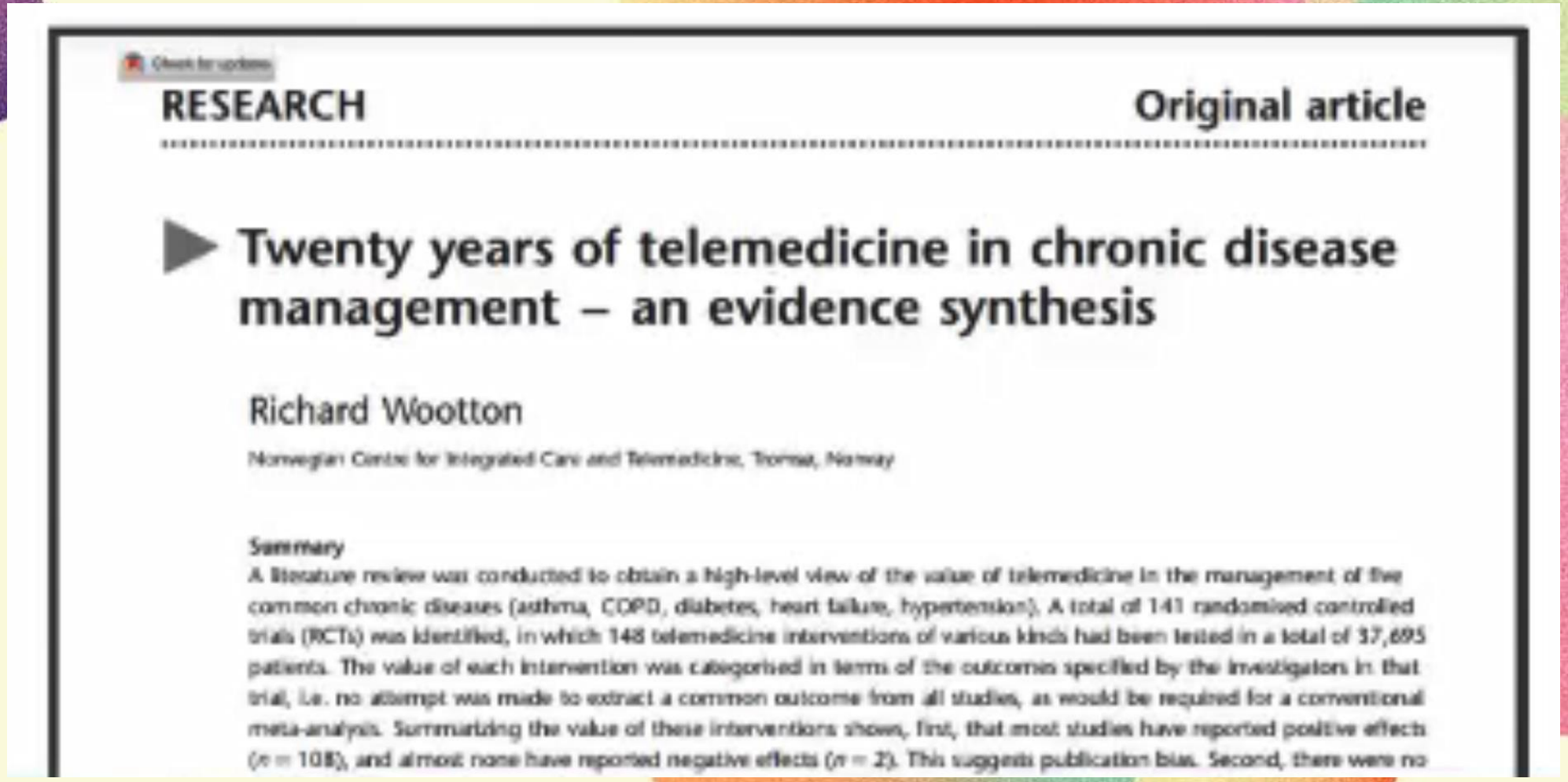
Narrative review:

Aloinient et al. Risk management in Enterprise Resource Planning (EPR) project introduction: Review of the literature

- This review is not explicit in terms of how the **search, selection and coding processes** were performed.

- It provides a solid foundation for the development of **new theoretical perspectives** in this area

Narrative Review



RESEARCH Original article

Twenty years of telemedicine in chronic disease management – an evidence synthesis

Richard Wootton

Norwegian Centre for Integrated Care and Telemedicine, Tromsø, Norway

Summary

A literature review was conducted to obtain a high-level view of the value of telemedicine in the management of five common chronic diseases (asthma, COPD, diabetes, heart failure, hypertension). A total of 141 randomised controlled trials (RCTs) was identified, in which 148 telemedicine interventions of various kinds had been tested in a total of 37,695 patients. The value of each intervention was categorised in terms of the outcomes specified by the investigators in that trial, i.e. no attempt was made to extract a common outcome from all studies, as would be required for a conventional meta-analysis. Summarizing the value of these interventions shown, first, that most studies have reported positive effects ($n = 108$), and almost none have reported negative effects ($n = 2$). This suggests publication bias. Second, there were no

2. Systematic Review

Systematic Review

Description	- To aggregate critically appraise, and synthesize in a single source all empieical evidence that meet a set of pre-specified eligibity criteria. - In order to answer in depth a clearly formulated research question a support evidence-based decision-making.
Search	-Exhaustive, comprehensive searching -Multiple sources and databases using highly sensitive and structured strategies -To identify all available studies
Appraisal	Two different quality assessment must be addresses: a. Risk of bias in included studies b. Quality of evidence by outcome of interest (e.g. Cochrane criteria and GRADE system)
Synthesis	Two different types of analyses and syntheses methods can be used: 1.Meta-analysis (statistical proofing of study results) 2. Qualitative narrative: use of vote counting, content analyses, frameworks, classification schemes and/or tabulations
Analysis	What is known, recommendations for practice. What remains unknown; uncertainty around finding, recommendations for future research

Systematic review:

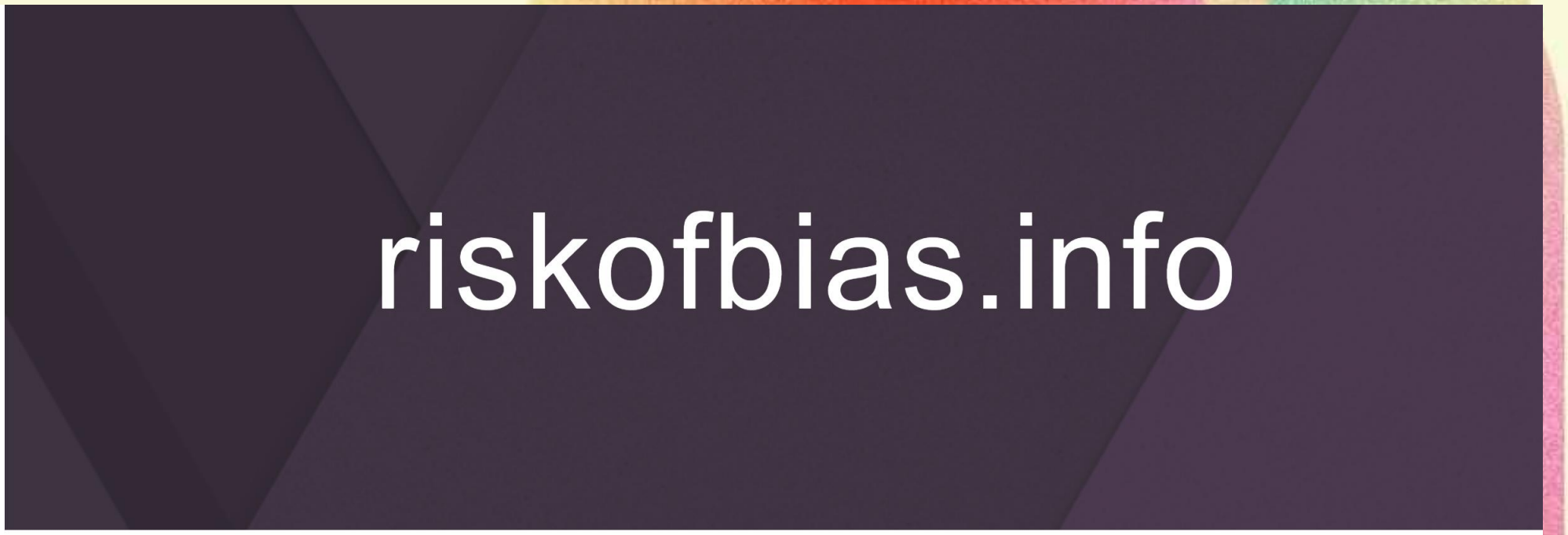
- The ‘gold standard’ of reviews
- Funded reviews typically involve a team or reviewers
- Registered with a review centre such as:
  - https://www.cochrane.org
  - https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero

https://www.riskofbias.info

riskofbias.info

Risk of bias tools

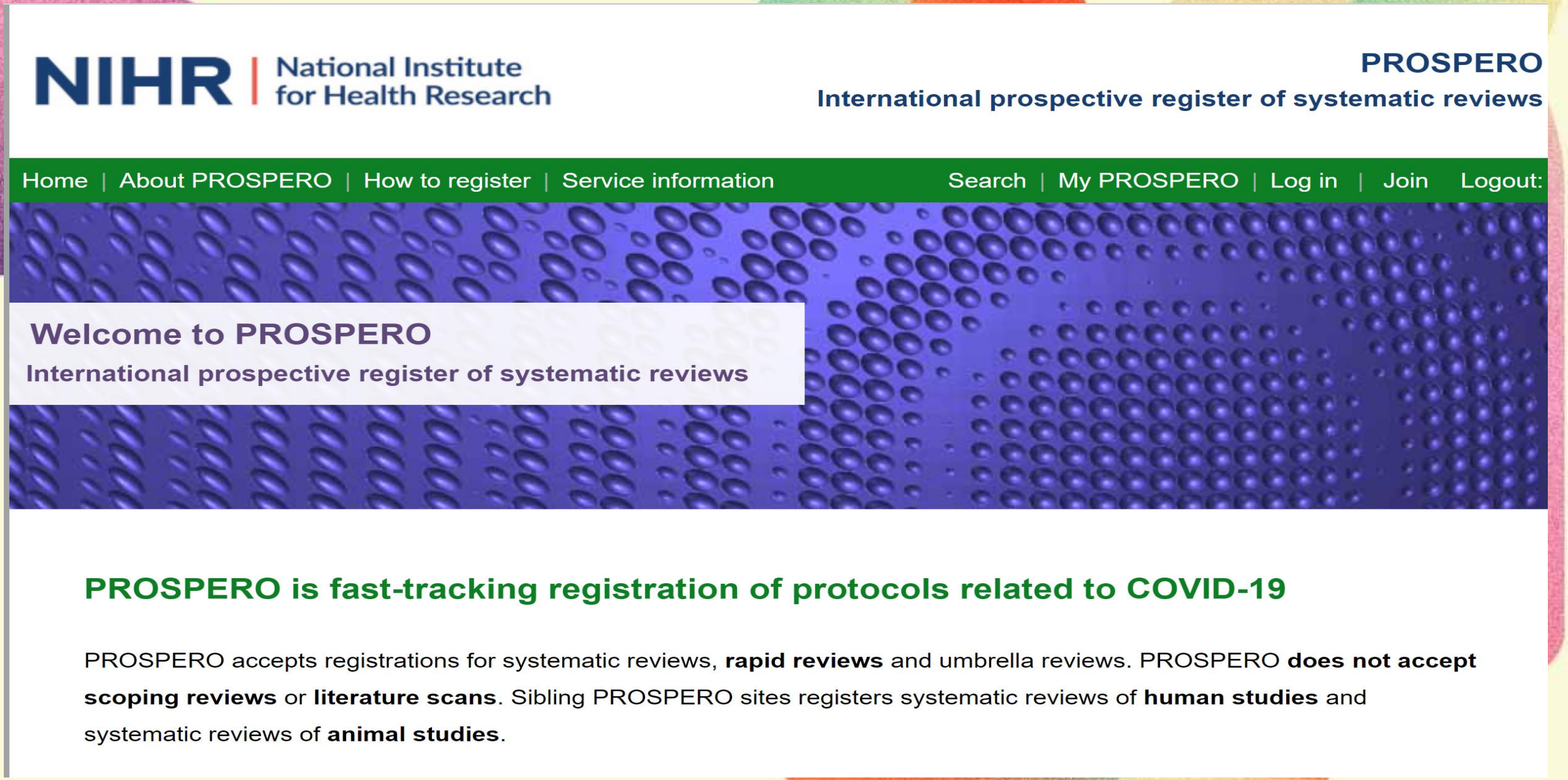
- Welcome
  - RoB 2 tool
  - ROBINS-I tool
    - ROBINS-E tool
    - ROB-ME tool
    - robvis (visualization tool)



Welcome to our pages for risk of bias tools for use in systematic reviews.

- RoB 2 tool (revised tool for Risk of Bias in randomized trials)
- ROBINS-E tool (Risk Of Bias in non-randomized Studies - of Exposures)
- ROB ME (Risk Of Bias due to Missing Evidence in a synthesis)
- ROBINS-I tool (Risk Of Bias in Non-randomized Studies - of Interventions)
- robvis (visualization tool for risk of bias assessments in a systematic review)

Prospero


NIHR | National Institute for Health Research
PROSPERO
International prospective register of systematic reviews
Home | About PROSPERO | How to register | Service information
Search | My PROSPERO | Log in | Join Logout:
Welcome to PROSPERO
International prospective register of systematic reviews
PROSPERO is fast-tracking registration of protocols related to COVID-19
PROSPERO accepts registrations for systematic reviews, rapid reviews and umbrella reviews. PROSPERO does not accept scoping reviews or literature scans. Sibling PROSPERO sites registers systematic reviews of human studies and systematic reviews of animal studies.

3. Qualitative Systematic Review

Qualitative Systematic Review/Qualitative evidence synthesis

Description	Method for integrating or comparing the findings from qualitative evidence. It looks for ‘themes’ or ‘construct that lie in or across individual qualitative studies.
Search	May employ selective or purposive sampling
Appraisal	Quality assessment typically used to: Mediate messages – not for inclusion/exclusion
Synthesis	Qualitative, narrative synthesis
Analysis	Thematic analysis, may include conceptual models

Qualitative systematic review:

Wosiniski et al. Facilitating problem-based learning among undergraduate nursing Students: A qualitative systematic review

- The purpose of this study was **to identify and synthesize the best available evidence**
- A **meta-synthesis was performed** according to the meta-aggregative methology for qualitative systematic reviews from the Johanna Briggs Institute (JBI)
- A qualitative **PICo**, where **P equals population**, **I the phenomenon under study** and **Co the context**, defined inclusion criteria

Qualitative systematic review (PICO)

Phenomena of Interest

Population

The **meaning of smoking** **to young woman** in the community, and their experiences of smoking cessation as primary health care intervention: a systematic review of the qualitative evidence

Context

Figure 1. PICo mnemonic of the experience of a primary health care intervention. PICo, population, the phenomena of interest and the context.

Qualitative Systematic Review

METHODOLOGY PAPER

Qualitative research synthesis: methodological guidance for systematic reviewers utilizing meta-aggregation

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[1]Implementation Science at the Joanna Briggs Institute in the School of Translational Health Science, [2]Transfer Science at the Joanna Briggs Institute in the School of Translational Health Science, University of Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

ABSTRACT

Qualitative synthesis informs important aspects of evidence-based healthcare, particularly within the practical decision-making contexts that health professionals work in. Of the qualitative methodologies available for synthesis, meta-aggregation is most transparently aligned with accepted conventions for the conduct of high-quality systematic reviews. Meta-aggregation is philosophically grounded in pragmatism and transcendental phenomenology. The essential characteristics of a meta-aggregative review are that the reviewer avoids re-interpretation of included studies, but instead accurately and reliably presents the findings of the included studies as intended by the original authors. This study reports on the methodology and methods of meta-aggregation within the structure of an *a priori* protocol and standardized frameworks for reporting of results by over-viewing the essential components of a systematic review report.

Key words: meta-aggregation, qualitative research synthesis, qualitative systematic review, synthesis methodology, theoretical perspective, transcendental phenomenology

Int J Evid Based Healthc 2015; 13:179–187.

Systematic Review of Qualitative Studies

Received: 26 October 2020 | Accepted: 6 June 2021

DOI: 10.1111/dme.14625

DIABETIC Medicine

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OR META-ANALYSIS

Same goals, different challenges: A systematic review of perspectives of people with diabetes and healthcare professionals on Type 2 diabetes care

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Abstract

Aims: To identify the views of people with Type 2 diabetes (PWD) and healthcare professionals (HCP) about diabetes care.

Methods: A systematic review of qualitative studies reporting both groups' views using thematic synthesis frameworked by the eHealth Enhanced Chronic Care Model was conducted.

Results: We searched six electronic databases between 2010 and 2020, identified 6999 studies and included 21. Thirty themes were identified with in general complementary views between PWD and HCP. PWD and HCP find lifestyle changes challenging and get frustrated when PWD struggle to achieve it. Good self-management requires a trustful PWD–HCP relationship. Diabetes causes distress and often HCP focus on clinical aspects. They value diabetes education. PWD require broader, tailored, consistent and ongoing information, but HCPs do not have enough time for

4. Rapid Review

Rapid Review/ Rapid evidence assessment

Description	Assessment of what is already known about a policy or practice issue Using systematic review methods to search and critically appraise existing research
Search	Completeness of searching determined by time constraints
Appraisal	Time-limited formal quality assessment
Synthesis	Typically narrative and tabular
Analysis	Quantities of literature and overall quality/direction of effect of literature

Systematic review/ Rapid evidence assessment

- Summarizes and synthesizes research findings **within the constraints of time and resources.**
- The review needs to be as **comprehensive as possible** and undertaken in a systematic manner.
- In response to a **request for information from policy makers**.
- Differs from a systematic review in relation to the
  Extensiveness of the search strategies and
  Methods used to undertake the analysis.
- May **fail to identify potentially** relevant studies.

Rapid Review

ELSEVIER

Journal of Clinical Epidemiology 130 (2021) 13–22

Journal of Clinical Epidemiology

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group offers evidence-informed guidance to conduct rapid reviews

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Accepted 8 October 2020; Published online 15 October 2020

Abstract

Objectives: To develop methods guidance to support the conduct of rapid reviews (RRs) produced within Cochrane and beyond, in response to requests for timely evidence syntheses for decision-making purposes including urgent health issues of high priority.

Study Design and Setting: Interim recommendations were informed by a scoping review of the underlying evidence, primary methods studies conducted, and a survey sent to 119 representatives from 20 Cochrane entities, who were asked to rate and rank RR methods across stages of review conduct. Discussions among those with expertise in RR methods further informed the list of recommendations with accompanying rationales provided.

5. Umbrella Review

Umbrella Review/ Overviews systematic

Description	Tertiary type of evidence synthesis To compare and contrast findings from multiple systematic reviews -different interventions for the same condition or -same interventions for different conditions
Search	Identification of all available systematic reviews (Published and unpublished). But no search for primary studies
Appraisal	Two different quality assessments: a. Methodological quality assessment of the included systematic reviews, b. Quality of evidence in included reviews (e.g. AMSTAR and GRADE system)
Synthesis	Graphical and tabular with narrative commentary
Analysis	What is known; recommendations for practice. What remains unknown; recommendations for future research

Review of reviews/ Umbrella review

- A review of the literature, undertaken **systematically**
- Compiles evidence from **multiple research syntheses** in order to summarise existing evidence
- Like systematic reviews follow **clear methods**
- Useful when a **review question is very broad** and a **number of systematic reviews** have already been conducted in the topic area
- However, the **different inclusion criteria** by adopted the reviews included can make interpretation problematic.

Umbrella review

- Mbemba et al. interventions for supporting nurse retention in rural and remote areas: an umbrella review
- The authors consulted several databases
- Clear inclusion and exclusion criteria were established by the authors.
- Two independent coders
  - Read title and abstract
  - Reviewed the full text
  - Compared their results
  - Agreed on the final codification
- Use PRISMA to assess the quality

JBI Manual for Evidence synthesis chapter 10: Umbrella review: https://doi.org/10.46658/JBIMES-20-11

Edoardo Aromataris, Ritin Fernandez, Christina Godfrey, Cheryl Holly, Hanan Khalil, Patraporn Tungpunkom

How to cite:

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Chapter 10: Contents

6. Scoping Review

Scoping Review

Description	Preliminary assessment of potential size and scope of available research literature. Aims to identify nature and extent of research evidence (including ongoing research) With a view to determine the value of undertaking a full systematic review.
Search	Comprehensive search using an iterative process Suitable for answering the central research question regardless of study design Uses explicite inclusion and exclusion criteria
Appraisal	No formal quality of risk of bias assessment of included primary studies is required
Synthesis	Typically tabular with some narrative commentary Present a narrative account of existing literature, as well as numerical analysis
Analysis	Characterizing quantity and quality of literature, perhaps by study design and other key futures.

Scoping Review

- Useful to map the literature in a broad context prior to undertaking a mor comprehensive review.
- **To assess the feasibility of** undertaking a full systematic review.
- **Not appropriate** to answer a clinical question.

Scoping Review

Archer et al. Personal health records: a scoping review

- A **comprehensive search of several databases**
- In order to put all the studies into perspective, they **described and mapped** the literature according to **study designs and key theme of PHRs**

Scoping Review

Levac *et al. Implementation Science* 2010, **5**:69
http://www.implementationscience.com/content/5/1/69

IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

DEBATE **Open Access**

Scoping studies: advancing the methodology

Danielle Levac[1*], Heather Colquhoun[1], Kelly K O'Brien[1,2]

Abstract

Background: Scoping studies are an increasingly popular approach to reviewing health research evidence. In 2005, Arksey and O'Malley published the first methodological framework for conducting scoping studies. While this framework provides an excellent foundation for scoping study methodology, further clarifying and enhancing this framework will help support the consistency with which authors undertake and report scoping studies and may encourage researchers and clinicians to engage in this process.

Discussion: We build upon our experiences conducting three scoping studies using the Arksey and O'Malley methodology to propose recommendations that clarify and enhance each stage of the framework. Recommendations include: clarifying and linking the purpose and research question (stage one); balancing feasibility with breadth and comprehensiveness of the scoping process (stage two); using an iterative team approach to selecting studies (stage three) and extracting data (stage four); incorporating a numerical summary and qualitative thematic analysis, reporting results, and considering the implications of study findings to policy, practice, or research (stage five); and incorporating consultation with stakeholders as a required knowledge translation component of scoping study methodology (stage six). Lastly, we propose additional considerations for scoping study methodology in order to support the advancement, application and relevance of scoping studies in health research.

Summary: Specific recommendations to clarify and enhance this methodology are outlined for each stage of the Arksey and O'Malley framework. Continued debate and development about scoping study methodology will help to maximize the usefulness and rigor of scoping study findings within healthcare research and practice.

https://www.prisma-statement.org/extensions/scopingreviews

Health Information and Libraries Journal

CILIP HLG

REVIEW ARTICLE

Patient education information material assessment criteria: A scoping review

Khadijeh Ahmadzadeh MSc, Masoud Bahrami PhD, Firoozeh Zare-Farashbandi PhD, Payman Adibi Md-PhD, Mohammad Ali Boroumand MSc, Alireza Rahimi PhD

First published: 13 January 2023 | https://doi.org/10.1111/hir.12467

Funding information: Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Grant/Award Number: 398308

Abstract

Background

Patient education information material (PEIM) is an essential component of patient education programs in increasing patients' ability to cope with their diseases. Therefore, it is essential to consider the criteria that will be used to prepare and evaluate these resources.

Objective

This paper aims to identify these criteria and recognize the tools or methods used to evaluate them.

Methods

National and international databases and indexing banks, including PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, ProQuest, the Cochrane Library, Magiran, SID and ISC, were searched for this review. Original or review articles, theses, short surveys, and conference papers published between January 1990 and June 2022 were included.

Results

Overall, 4688 documents were retrieved, of which 298 documents met the inclusion criteria. The criteria were grouped into 24 overarching criteria. The most frequently used criteria were readability, quality, suitability, comprehensibility and understandability.

Conclusion

7. Realist Review

Realist Review

Description	Theory-driven interpretative review. Aims to enhance systematic reviews by including evidence from both quantitative and qualitative studies of complex interventions applied in diverse indexes.
Search	Systematic and comprehensive based on “a priori” criteria or iterative and purposive, aiming to provide a holistic interpretation of a phenomenon
Appraisal	Quality or risk of bias assessment must be addresses using different instruments and/or frameworks for quantitative and qualitative studies.
Synthesis	Qualitative evidence synthesis Theories expresses in terms of context, mechanism and outcome (CMO) configurations.
Analysis	Can use content analysis, conceptual frameworks as well as interpretive and mixed methods approaches.

Realist Review

- Focuses on **understanding mechanisms** by which an **intervention works** (or not)
- It involve **identifying mechanisms** that **impact an intervention** and exploring **how they work** and **under what conditions.**
- A clear aim: **Identifying relevant evidence.**
- **Stockholder involvement** in the process is high as the realist review is derived following **negotiation between stockholders and reviewers.**

Realist Review

Wong et al. internet-based medical education: a realist review of what works, for whom and in what circumstances

- Aiming to produce **theory driven criteria**.
- Seeking to identify **theoretical models.**
- Using immersion and interpretation.
- The authors **tested the theories** by considering how **well they explained the different outcomes** achieved in different educational contexts.

Realist Review

Review > J Health Serv Res Policy. 2005 Jul;10 Suppl 1:21-34. doi: 10.1258/1355819054308530.

Realist review--a new method of systematic review designed for complex policy interventions

Ray Pawson [1], Trisha Greenhalgh, Gill Harvey, Kieran Walshe

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 16053581 DOI: 10.1258/1355819054308530

Abstract

Evidence-based policy is a dominant theme in contemporary public services but the practical realities and challenges involved in using evidence in policy-making are formidable. Part of the problem is one of complexity. In health services and other public services, we are dealing with complex social interventions which act on complex social systems--things like league tables, performance measures, regulation and inspection, or funding reforms. These are not 'magic bullets' which will always hit their target, but programmes whose effects are crucially dependent on context and implementation.

Realist Review

Rycroft-Malone *et al. Implementation Science* 2012, **7**:33
http://www.implementationscience.com/content/7/1/33

IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE

METHODOLOGY Open Access

Realist synthesis: illustrating the method for implementation research

Jo Rycroft-Malone[1*], Brendan McCormack[2], Alison M Hutchinson[3,4], Kara DeCorby[5], Tracey K Bucknall[3,4], Bridie Kent[6,7], Alyce Schultz[8], Erna Snelgrove-Clarke[9], Cheryl B Stetler[10], Marita Titler[11], Lars Wallin[12] and Val Wilson[13]

Abstract

Background: Realist synthesis is an increasingly popular approach to the review and synthesis of evidence, which focuses on understanding the mechanisms by which an intervention works (or not). There are few published examples of realist synthesis. This paper therefore fills a gap by describing, in detail, the process used for a realist review and synthesis to answer the question 'what interventions and strategies are effective in enabling evidence-informed healthcare?' The strengths and challenges of conducting realist review are also considered.

Methods: The realist approach involves identifying underlying causal mechanisms and exploring how they work under what conditions. The stages of this review included: defining the scope of the review (concept mining and framework formulation); searching for and scrutinising the evidence; extracting and synthesising the evidence; and developing the narrative, including hypotheses.

Results: Based on key terms and concepts related to various interventions to promote evidence-informed healthcare, we developed an outcome-focused theoretical framework. Questions were tailored for each of four theory/intervention areas within the theoretical framework and were used to guide development of a review and data extraction process. The search for literature within our first theory area, change agency, was executed and the screening procedure resulted in inclusion of 52 papers. Using the questions relevant to this theory area, data were extracted by one reviewer and validated by a second reviewer. Synthesis involved organisation of extracted data

8. Critical Review

Critical Review

Description	Provide a critical evaluation and interpretive analysis of existing literature to reveal strengths, weaknesses, contradictions, controversies, inconsistencies and/or important issues whth respect to theories, hypotheses, research methods or results
Search	Most significant items in the field. May or may nor include comprehensive searching
Appraisal	No formal quality or risk of bias assessment Attempts to evaluate according to contribution
Synthesis	Typically narrative, perhaps conceptual or chronological
Analysis	A variety of analysis methods that can be grouped as either positivists (e.g. Content analysis and frequencies) or interpretivist (e.g. meta-ethnography, critical interpretive synthesis)

Critical Review

Balijepally et al. are we wielding this hammer correctly?. A reflective review of the application of cluster analysis in information system research

- **Various deficiencies noticed** in its use were identified
- Along with **suggestion for future practice.**

Critical Review

Chapter

Writing Critical Reviews: A Step-by-Step Guide

February 2022

In book: Study Skills for International Postgraduates (Second Edition) (pp.194-207) · Edition: 2nd · Chapter: 11 · Publisher: Bloomsbury

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Core software for Conducting Peviews

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Core software

Software tools to help you in various stages of your systematic review production.

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Covidence — covidence — Collection

GRADEpro GDT — GRADEpro GDT — Webinar

EPPI-Reviewer — EPPI REVIEWER — Collection

DistillerSR Modules

DistillerSR: Literature Review Software

Smarter Reviews: Trusted Evidence

Securely automate every stage of your literature review to produce evidence-based research faster, more accurately, and more transparently at scale.

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https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/

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Thank you

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