

Preventing the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in older adults aged 60 years and above living in long-term care

Rationale

With the global rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become apparent that older adults are a high-risk group. People older than 65 years of age, with or without pre-existing health problems; or those who live in a nursing home or long-term care (LTC) facility are at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Implications

The results of this rapid review will be shared with the Canadian Frailty Network (CFN), and will be used to inform older adults and long-term care facilities on how to prepare for and respond to a possible COVID-19 outbreak in their communities.

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Objective

- To examine the transmission of COVID-19 in older adults aged 65 years and above living in nursing home or long-term care facilities, through the following:
 1. What are the infection prevention and control practices for preventing or reducing the transmission of COVID-19, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in older adults aged 65 years and above living in long-term care?
 2. Do the infection prevention and control practices differ for adults aged 65 years and above living in long-term care with severe comorbidities or frailty differ than those without such severe comorbidities/frailty?
 3. What are the employment and remuneration policies that may have contributed to the COVID-19 outbreak in adults aged 65 years and above living in long-term care facilities?

Methodology

- Eligibility criteria will use the PICOS framework:
 - Population – Adults aged >65 years residing in long-term care facilities
 - Intervention – Any form of infection control and prevention, such as hand hygiene, personal protective equipment (for patients and health care providers), restrictions on resident movement and transportation, restrictions on visitors, restrictions on travel for health care providers and other long-term care facility staff
 - Comparator – One of the interventions listed above or no intervention
 - Outcomes – Lab-confirmed respiratory infection, symptoms, secondary transmission, goal concordant care, hospitalization/intensive-care unit (ICU) admission, mortality
 - Study designs – CPGs and systematic reviews, and primary human studies of all designs that involve COVID-19 only
 - Other – N/A
- Literature searches will be developed by an experienced librarian for MEDLINE, EMBASE, the Cochrane Library, and biorxiv.org/medrxiv.org
- Screening, data abstraction and quality appraisal will be completed by single reviewers with an independent verifier
- The synthesis will involve providing a descriptive summary of included studies with summary tables and detailed tables of study results

Knowledge Translation Strategy

- The summary of results (a brief summary report and 1-page policy brief) will be forwarded to CFN for further dissemination among their network. This work will also be submitted to an open-access, peer-reviewed journal for publication.