



Assessment and interventions in care and services for older adults

An evidence map

SBU EVIDENCE MAP | MAPPING OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

DECEMBER 2019 | WWW.SBU.SE/306E

Executive summary

Background

In Sweden, the local community services for older adults stand for a fifth of their costs and corresponds to 2,7% of BNP. This Evidence Map of care and services for older adults is based on results and conclusions from published systematic reviews in 12 domains of relevance for the Swedish context. The domains are generally wide including a diversity of interventions or assessments, however, all supported by the Social Services Law. Examples are home help and residential care. Interventions requiring medical expertise or rehabilitation such as medication or fall prevention were excluded.

A method or practice is an evidence gap if:

- Systematic reviews with low or moderate risk of bias find that there is no conclusive evidence of benefits or harms (Very low certainty of finding according to GRADE or corresponding, no primary studies identified).
- No systematic review with low or moderate risk of bias have reviewed the method or intervention.

A lack of evidence does not mean that the methods or interventions have no effect. It simply means that there is a scientific uncertainty about treatment effects and that more studies or systematic reviews are needed to provide a reliable measurement.

Aim

The aim of this Evidence Map is to identify relevant scientific evidence and evidence gaps by systematically assessing and categorizing all systematic reviews that evaluate the effects of assessment and interventions of relevance for care and service for older persons.

Method

A study protocol for this Evidence Map was made a priori, but is not published.

Inclusion criteria regarding assessment and follow up, PIRO

Population

Individuals aged at least 60 years, or groups with a mean age of at least 65 years, or next of kin.

Assessment method

Needs assessment, scales or instruments.

Reference

Reference test, e.g. other instrument or scale.

Outcome

Usability, participation, costs, reliability, experiences.

Inclusion criteria regarding interventions, PICO

Population

Individuals aged at least 60 years, or groups with a mean age of at least 65 years, or next of kin.

Intervention

Interventions according to the Swedish Social services law, such as prevention, support aging in place, home care service or residential care.

Control

Other intervention.

Outcome

- Effects from the intervention
- Side effects, unwanted events, problems, difficulties or events in connection with a method or intervention
- Experiences from the intervention
- Participation
- Costs.

Study design

Systematic review.

Language

Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, English.

Search period

From 2000 to April 2017.

Databases searched

12 electronic databases (Assia, ASE, Socindex, Sociological abstracts, IBSS, PubMed, Cinahl, Cochrane Library, Campbell library, PsycInfo, Social care online och Scopus).

Client/patient involvement

No.

The PICO and PIRO as well as the twelve domains in this map were outlined by the project group. In order to make sure that a relevant map was drafted, representatives from the field and user organisations were given the opportunity to review and suggest changes to the inclusion criteria.

A systematic literature search was thereafter designed and performed by an information specialist in order to identify all published systematic reviews potentially relevant for the PICO and PIRO. Two reviewers independently screened the abstracts and full text and selected the relevant systematic reviews. The risk of bias in the included systematic reviews were assessed independently by two reviewers using a slightly modified version of the AMSTAR tool. Any disagreement regarding relevance or risk of bias was solved by a discussion.

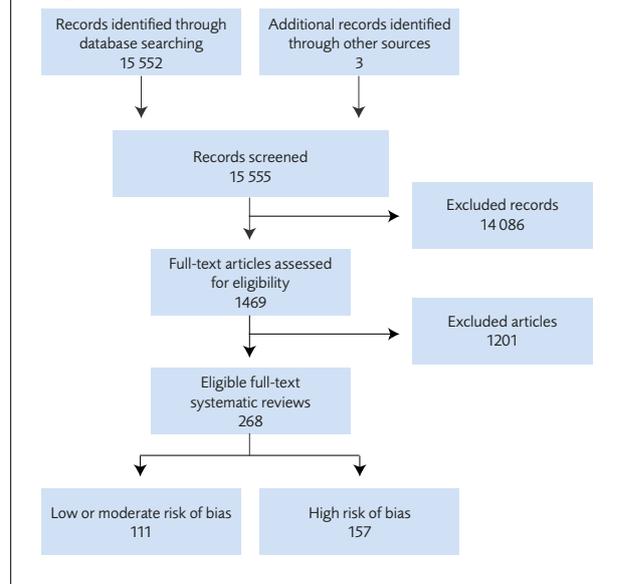
Depending on the research questions addressed in the identified systematic reviews, they were classified according to the prespecified domains and are presented in the Evidence Map.

Results

268 relevant systematic reviews were identified and provide the basis for this SBU Evidence Map. Out of these 111 were assessed to have a low or moderate risk of bias. All systematic reviews are presented in the Evidence map. In total, the evidence map shows both scientific evidence and evidence gaps in six out of twelve domains, and for the combination 'Maintaining and stimulating work methods: both community and institutional settings'.

The whole domain 'Needs assessment and follow-up: informal carers' constitutes an evidence gap as no relevant reviews were identified. All the following domains lack scientific evidence; 'Maintaining and stimulating work methods: only community settings';

Figure 1 Flowchart of included systematic reviews.



'Institutional care as an intervention'; 'Support, advice and information'; 'Integrated measures or activities', and 'Support for informal carers'.

Conflicts of interest

In accordance with SBU's requirements, the experts and external reviewers participating in this project have submitted statements about conflicts of interest. These documents are available at SBU's secretariat. SBU has determined that the conditions described in the submissions are compatible with SBU's requirements for objectivity and impartiality.

Project group

Experts

Gerd Ahlström, Lund University, Sweden
Lena Dahlberg, Dalarna University, Sweden

SBU

Gunilla Fahlström (Project Manager)
Maria Ahlberg (Project Assistant)
Göran Bertilsson (Project Manager)
Maja Kärrman-Fredriksson (Information Specialist)

External reviewers

Marie Ernsth Bravell, Jönköping University, Sweden
Håkan Jönsson, Lund University, Sweden

SBU Evidence Map no 306, 2019

www.sbu.se/en • registrator@sbu.se

English Proofreading: Rebecca Silverstein, SBU

Graphic Design: Anna Edling, SBU