



EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS
IRELAND



Cochrane
Ireland

Evidence Synthesis Ireland Fellowship Scheme 2020

Review Centre/Group Mentor (RCM)

Andrea C. Tricco, MSc, PhD

Director & Scientist, Knowledge Synthesis Team, Knowledge Translation Program, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto

Associate Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health & Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation, University of Toronto

Co-Director & Adjunct Associate Professor Queen's Collaboration for Health Care Quality Joanna Briggs Institute Centre of Excellence, Queen's University

Associate Editor Journal of Clinical Epidemiology, BMC Medical Research Methodology, Systematic Reviews

Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Knowledge Synthesis & Ontario Ministry of Research, Innovation, and Science Early Researcher Award

Review title

Interventions for social isolation in older adults who have experienced a fall: A systematic review

Review type

Systematic Review (and meta-analysis if feasible)

Review details

Background: In Canada, falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations among older adults, and 20-30% of older adults experience at least one fall each year. Falls have been shown to be associated with physical inactivity, anxiety, and depressive symptoms, and studies are now examining the impact of falls on social isolation. Social isolation among older adults is associated with many adverse health outcomes, including cognitive decline, mental distress, and dementia. Given the detrimental outcomes associated with both falls and social isolation, an important knowledge gap to fill is identifying the most effective methods for minimizing social isolation after a fall.

Research Question: What is the effectiveness of interventions for social isolation in older adults who have experienced a fall?

Population: Older adults (65 years and older) living in a community setting who have experienced a fall

Intervention: Any intervention for social isolation after experiencing a fall

Comparator: Usual care or another intervention for social isolation

Outcomes: Reduction in social isolation after experiencing a fall, measured using validated scales (De Jong Loneliness scale, Bude & Lantermann scale for social exclusion) or other quantitative measures of social isolation as reported in the literature

Study Designs: Randomized controlled trials (RCTs), observational studies (case control, cohort), and non-randomized controlled trials (quasi-experimental, interrupted time series, controlled before after studies)

Specific Fellow requirements on this review

Able to contribute at least 10 hours/week towards review work if needed

Estimated start and completion dates* – *please note these are subject to change and flexibility on the part of the Fellow is required*

Start date: January 2020

Estimated completion date: September 2020