



**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

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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

**The relationship between social isolation and falls in older adults: A scoping review**

### Review type

**Scoping review**

### 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, it is important to synthesize existing research on the association between social isolation and falls to understand which risk factors or protective factors mediate this association.

**Research Question:** What is the extent to which falls are associated with social isolation in older adults, including any risk or protective factors?

**Population:** Older adults (65 years and older)

**Concept:** The association between social isolation and experiencing a fall, including risk and protective factors

**Context:** Community setting (i.e. living independently)

**Specific requirements for fellow**

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

**Estimated start and completion dates\*** – *subject to change and flexibility on the part of the fellow is required*

**Start date:** April 2020

**Estimated completion date:** September 2020