



Public Health
England

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Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

Prevention and control of COVID-19 in home care/care homes settings 30th April 2021

Summary

This weekly digest contains a selection of evidence published in the last 7 days, in relation to the prevention and control of COVID-19 in home care/care home settings. We search a number of Covid-19 review repositories, an existing PHE Covid-19 evidence digest, Ovid Medline and Embase, Social Care Online, medRxiv (pre-print server) and various websites. We select peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed publications (pre-prints), as well as systematic reviews, guidance and evidence summaries.

The digest is produced by PHE **Knowledge and Library Services** (KLS), in conjunction with a small editorial team.

We do not accept responsibility for the availability, reliability or content of the items included in this resource and do not necessarily endorse the views expressed within them. Our intent is to highlight early emerging research findings as well as research that has been subject to peer review and wider scrutiny.

This week's digest includes: an international call for greater consideration by policy makers of the value of specialist geriatric expertise in improving the care of older people during the Covid-19 pandemic; from the UK, further evidence of the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on the mortality of care home residents, compared to older people living in the community, during the first wave; and emerging evidence of the feasibility of using point of care tests in screening for SARS-CoV-2 in care homes. Finally, summaries of recently published reports, guidance and statistics.

We now have a search facility for the Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest. This can be achieved by using Endnote Software and accessing the monthly backups of the Research Digest. This will give access to the content of all previous weekly Digests and allow simple searches e.g. on authors, abstracts (where these are captured) and titles. Please note that this is not a substitute for a proper literature search. If you would like to access this facility please contact gareth.durling@phe.gov.uk.

An ongoing series of PHE rapid reviews on a range of Covid-19 related research questions can be also found at <https://phelibrary.koha-ptfs.co.uk/covid19rapidreviews/>.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
23.04.2014	Risky alcohol consumption in older people before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United Kingdom	Journal of Substance Use / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) was used to identify risky drinking in people aged between 55 and 74, in a sample of 366 people. One hundred and eighty-five people were referred before and one hundred and eighty-one people after lockdown in the UK. Compared with before lockdown, it was more likely for older people referred after lockdown to be female, have less severe cognitive impairment, and to show other features of alcohol-related harm such as morning drinking and feeling guilt or remorse over their drinking. These findings have implications for both access to services and service provision in community-dwelling older people who experience restrictions on their independence during a pandemic.
20.04.2021	Maximizing Efficiency of Telemedicine in the Skilled Nursing Facility During the Covid-19 Pandemic	Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telemedicine has rapidly become a significant component of healthcare during the coronavirus 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, and is particularly beneficial in delivering care to vulnerable populations in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). To limit Covid-19 exposure, our team developed a quality improvement (QI) project to identify common telemedicine-related disruptions and their solutions, and created a streamlined protocol to maximize the efficiency of virtual rounding in the SNF.
20.04.2021	Variation in Care of Community and Nursing Home Residents Who Died of COVID-19 in Ontario, Canada	Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We found that only a small portion of Ontario nursing home residents who died of COVID-19 were hospitalized prior to death (24%), and that there were substantial temporal variations, with hospitalizations reaching their lowest point in March-April 2020 (16%) which coincided with the peak of the 1st wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the province. This is the first work that we are aware of to systematically document significant variation in access to hospital care among nursing home COVID-19 decedents.
21.04.2021	Is Point-of-Care testing feasible and safe in care homes in England? An exploratory usability	Age and Ageing / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable rapid testing for COVID-19 is needed in care homes to reduce the risk of outbreaks and enable timely care.

	and accuracy evaluation of a Point-of-Care Polymerase Chain Reaction test for SARS-COV-2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study aimed to examine the usability and test performance of a point of care polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for detection of SARS-COV2 (POCKIT™ Central) in care homes.
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Preprints

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
26.04.2021	Point of Care Testing using rapid automated Antigen Testing for SARS-COV-2 in Care Homes – an exploratory safety, usability and diagnostic agreement evaluation	medRxiv / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful adoption of POCTs (Point-of-Care tests) for COVID-19 in care homes requires the identification of ideal use cases and a full understanding of contextual and usability factors that affect test results and minimise biosafety risks. This paper presents findings from a scoping-usability and test performance study of a microfluidic immunofluorescence assay for COVID-19 in care homes.
27.04.2021	Mortality of care home residents and community-dwelling controls during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020: matched cohort study	medRxiv / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective was to estimate mortality of care home residents during the Covid-19 pandemic from primary care electronic health records. 1,421 general practices contributing to the Clinical Practice Research Datalink Aurum Database in England

Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
24.04.2021	Reporting COVID-19 Vaccination Data for Long-Term Care Facilities	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care (LTC) Program is a partnership between CDC and CVS, Walgreens, and Managed Health Care Associates, Inc., to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccination services for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program is being implemented in close coordination with jurisdictions (states, territories, and local entities), long-term care facilities, federal partners, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and professional organizations, including the American Health Care Association and Leading Age.
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Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
16.04.2021	COVID-19 - information and guidance for social, community and residential care settings	Health Protection Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This guidance is to support those working in Social, Community and Residential care settings to give advice to their staff and users of their services about COVID-19.
22.04.2021	COVID-19 testing schedule for a suspected or confirmed outbreak in a care home	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care homes should follow a regular staff testing regime of weekly PCR testing and twice weekly lateral flow testing. An outbreak is defined as 2 or more clinically suspected or confirmed positives (rapid lateral flow or PCR) among residents or staff detected in the same 14-day period.
22.04.2021	Visiting arrangements in care homes	UK Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out how care homes can support families and visitors to visit residents. Applies to England
23.04.2021	Visits to care homes: guidance for providers	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for care home providers for adults and children on how to enable safe visiting during the coronavirus pandemic.
23.04.2021	COVID-19 Guidance on visits to Long Term Residential Care	Irish Health Protection Surveillance Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTRCFs are the home environments of individuals residing there and as such the importance of maintaining meaningful contact with family and other loved ones is vital from a holistic person-centred approach.

	Facilities (for implementation from May 4th 2021)		
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Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
21.04.2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): adult care homes - additional data	Scottish Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland.
27.04.2021	Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales, by age, sex and region, in the latest weeks for which data are available. Includes the most up-to-date figures available for deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19).
27.04.2021	Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly updated provisional counts of deaths caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) by local authority
27.04.2021	Care home resident deaths registered in England and Wales, provisional	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional counts of the number of care home resident deaths registered in England and Wales, by region, including deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19), in the latest weeks for which data are available.
27.04.2021	Notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales related to COVID-19 in adult care homes: 1 March 2020 to 22 April 2021	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notifications related to COVID-19 in adult care homes during the coronavirus pandemic for 1 March 2020 to 22 April 2021.

Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
23.04.2021	Covid-19: a call for mobilizing geriatric expertise	O'Hanlon, Shane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 is a true gerontological pandemic, with frailty, multimorbidity and geriatric syndromes being of great importance. • There has been a lack of geriatrician involvement in planning and delivery of care for older people with Covid-19 in many arenas. Lack of mobilisation of geriatric expertise has led to inconsistent policy responses and ageism. • Medical education and health systems have failed to align training, resources, and systems with current demographic and health usage realities. • We must take the specific needs of older people into account to position ourselves to provide better care for this group during Covid-19 and beyond.