



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

Prevention and control of COVID-19 in home care/care homes settings

9th July 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: from the USA, lessons identified by a federal strike team to protect nursing homes from the impact of Covid-19; from USA, Brazil, Republic of Ireland and the UK, further examples and evidence of the wide ranging adverse effects of Covid-19 on the mental health of older people and their informal carers;. Also from the UK, a review of the factors underlying the high mortality experienced from Covid-19 cross the country. Finally, summaries of other 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.kohaptfs.co.uk/covid19rapidreviews/>.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
01.07.2021	“There Is Something Very Personal About Seeing Someone’s Face”: Provider Perceptions of Video Visits in Home-Based Primary Care During COVID-19	J. Applied Gerontol. / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rapid deployment of video visits during COVID-19 may have posed unique challenges for home-based primary care (HBPC) practices due to their hands-on model of care and older adult population. This qualitative study examined provider perceptions of video visits during the first wave of the COVID-19 crisis in New York City (NYC) through interviews with both clinical and non-clinical HBPC staff at six NYC-area practices. • Video visit benefits included triaging patient needs, collecting patient information, and increasing scheduling capacity. Barriers included cognitive and sensory abilities, technology access, reliance on caregivers and aides, addressing sensitive topics, and incomplete exams. • A policy that promotes platform flexibility will be crucial in fostering video integration.
03.07.2021	Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Older Adults Mental Health Services: A mixed methods study	Int. J. Geriatric. Psych. / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study aimed to explore staff perspectives on key challenges and innovations in order to help inform the delivery of older adults mental health care in subsequent waves of the pandemic. • 158 participants, working in either community or inpatient settings, and from a range of professional disciplines, were included. For inpatient staff, a significant challenge was infection control. In the community, staff identified a lack of access to physical and social care as well as reduced contact with friends and families as being challenges for patients. • This study, with a focus on staff and patient well-being, helps to inform service development for future waves of the pandemic.
05.07.2021	Impact of Covid-19 restrictions on carers of persons with dementia in the UK: A qualitative study	Age & Aging / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 have had a profound impact on the daily life of the entire population. This study provides insight into the impact of these restrictions on carers of people with dementia living at home

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty-three carers were interviewed, and thematic analysis identified three main themes—Changes to daily life, impact on carer health and wellbeing and reduced support from health and social support networks. • Carers attempt to continue to provide physical, emotional and practical support for persons with dementia in the community throughout the COVID-19 restrictions. • To prevent a future carer crisis, carers need better support systems including formal carer services, telecare solutions that work for them and additional support for respite, as the restrictions from this pandemic continue.
06.07.2021	Factors associated with depressive and anxiety symptoms in older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic: a Brazilian study	Aging & Mental Health / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study aimed to assess factors associated with depressive and anxiety symptoms in Brazilian older adults during the pandemic. • prevalence of depressive symptoms according to Geriatric Depressive Scale was 28.7% (95% CI = 24.4%, 33.4%) and the prevalence of anxiety symptoms according to Geriatric Anxiety Index was 26.1% • high prevalence of depressive and anxious symptoms was identified in Brazilian older adults. The data can help in planning interventions aimed at older adults, also including their families, health professionals, and society.

Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
28.06.2021	Protecting Nursing Home Residents from Covid-19: Federal Strike Team Findings and Lessons Learned	Andersen, Lauren E.; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19's toll in US nursing homes highlighted major shortcomings in how these facilities handle infection prevention and control. • In this commentary a federal strike team identifies key challenges and promising practices to improve safety for residents and staff.

30.06.2021	An Inquiry into the Lived Experience of Covid-19 in the Home Care Sector in Ireland: Clients Experience	Home & Community Care Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report is the second part of a research project that explores the impact of Covid-19 of home care clients throughout the pandemic; the first report <i>Experiences of Home Care Provider Organisations</i>, was published in October 2020 • This research examines the mental, physical and social impact that Covid-19, cocooning and public health restrictions had on home care clients and the coping mechanisms that they used during the pandemic. • The research concludes with recommendations on how home care clients should be supported as we emerge from the pandemic and the lessons that policymakers can learn from clients experiences during Covid-19.
July 2021	Unequal pandemic, fairer recovery: The COVID-19 impact inquiry report	The Health Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report, produced by the Health Foundation's COVID-19 impact inquiry, is a comprehensive review of the factors that fuelled the UK's COVID-19 death toll. • Poor health and existing inequalities left parts of the UK vulnerable to the virus and defined the contours of its devastating impact. • Some groups – young people, disabled people, ethnic minority communities and care home residents – have been more affected than others. Prisoners, homeless people and people experiencing sexual exploitation have also faced particular challenges. • The legacy of the financial crisis has had a direct bearing on our experience of the pandemic. Deep-rooted issues – poor health, increased financial insecurity and strained public services – left the UK more vulnerable to COVID-19's health and economic impacts. • Ensuring the recovery improves health – as well as the economy – requires cross-government action to level up health. This will pay dividends for the nation's health and prosperity in the longer term.

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
Updated 05.07.2021	COVID-19: how to work safely in domiciliary care in England	Public Health England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resource for those working in domiciliary care providing information on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
Updated 07.07.2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in adult care homes	Department of Health & Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to access test kits and step-by-step guides on how to use PCR and rapid lateral flow test kits for regular and outbreak testing of residents, staff and visiting professionals.

Evidence Summaries

Publication Date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
05.07.2021	Coronavirus: Adult social care key issues and sources	House of Commons Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This briefing provides an overview of key issues facing the adult social care sector during the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, and provides links to some of the key official guidance for the sector.

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
06.07.2021	Notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales related to COVID-19 in adult care homes: 1 March 2020 to 30 June 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.

06.07.2021	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
06.07.2021	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.
07.07.2021	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.

Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
03.07.2021	Next steps in long term care: How can nursing help?	Resnick, Barbara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflects on impact of COVID-19 on LTC facilities, residents, families, and staff, particularly in the US. Explores ways in which the nursing profession can support future changes both to the operation of LCTFs and the care of residents