



UK Health Security Agency

Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

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

11th February 2022

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 UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Covid-19 evidence digest (including Covid-19 evidence digests produced by Public Health England prior to October 2021), 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 UKHSA [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.

The digest this week includes; from the USA , a feasibility study of advanced remote monitoring for COVID-19 in long-term care facilities; a comparison of the impacts of COVID-19 in different community based long- term care programmes; and experience of monitoring of uptake of COVID-19 vaccine in US care homes; from Japan, a qualitative study with further evidence of the value of involving caregivers of older people living with dementia in the decision making process during the COVID-19 pandemic; and from the Netherlands, a longitudinal cohort study showing positive benefits of lifting restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic on neuropsychiatric symptoms in nursing home residents with dementia.

Finally, summaries of other recently published COVID-19 pandemic reports, guidance and statistics.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
05.02.2022	Pilot and feasibility deployment of an advanced remote monitoring platform for COVID-19 in long-term care facilities	J. American Geriatrics Soc. / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older adults in long-term care facilities (LTCFs) are at a significantly higher risk for hospitalization and death due to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Wearable devices have increasingly emerged as novel tools to track and mitigate outbreaks given continuously collected and wirelessly transmitted physiological data. Devices for older adults in LTCFs must consider low technical literacy, medical complexity, cognitive decline, skin fragility, overburdened caregivers, and limited technical staff expertise This paper is a fully virtual single-arm, prospective observational study of older adults in two LTCFs (Chicago, IL) of the ANNE One (Sibel Inc.), an Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-cleared physiological monitoring system (Figure 1A), consisting of two medical-grade silicone patches. Twenty-two patients (median age 84 years old; 65–95 years) enrolled between January 27 and May 13, 2021. Hypertensive (66%) and neurocognitive disorders (55%) were common. Eighty-seven gigabytes of data were collected from 2738 monitoring hours. Overall, 45% of participants reported remote monitoring made them feel safer, while 61% felt it provided helpful information for their physicians. A total of 55% described sensor use as easy or very easy, with 61% preferring the ANNE One system to wired hospital monitors.
06.02.2022	Medical and Mental Health Care Challenges in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, and Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) During COVID-19	JAMDA / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examines impact of COVID-19 pandemic in community-based long-term care programs such as the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), as well as Nursing Homes (NH) and Assisted Living Communities (AL) in North Carolina, United States Of the 36 sites, almost all had COVID-19 cases among residents and staff. While NHs had significantly more cases than both other setting types, there were no differences by setting type in the other variables under study

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings of more COVID-19 in NHs may relate to the higher acuity of their residents and more compacted living and social spaces compared to AL and PACE. • Although NH administrators more often reported challenges providing medical and mental health care, no one setting reported challenges significantly more than others, and differences regarding mental health care were especially minor.
06.02.2022	Surveillance of COVID-19 Vaccination in Nursing Homes, United States, December 2020–July 2021	Public Health Reports / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study compared numbers of COVID-19 vaccinations administered to nursing home residents and staff reported by pharmacies participating in the temporary federal Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program with the numbers of COVID-19 vaccinations reported by nursing homes participating in new COVID-19 vaccination modules of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). • Based on subsequent NHSN reporting, vaccination coverage with ≥ 1 vaccine dose reached 73.7% for residents and 47.6% for staff the week ending January 31 and increased incrementally through July 2021. • Continued monitoring of COVID-19 vaccination coverage is important as new nursing home residents are admitted, new staff are hired, and additional doses of vaccine are recommended.
07.02.2022	Person-centered dementia care during COVID-19: a qualitative case study of impact on and collaborations between caregivers	BMC Geriatrics / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploratory qualitative case study of family members living with older people with dementia, care managers, and medical and long-term care facility staff. • Interviews identified 22 themes related to the impact of COVID-19 on different positions of the caregivers involved in dementia care and their collaboration, categorized in six categories. Core themes were “re-acknowledgement of care priorities” and “rebuilding of relationships.” • When caregivers’ perceptions were aligned in the decision-making processes regarding care priorities, “reaffirmation of trust” and “strengthening of intimate relationships” emerged as positive changes in their relationships

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences in the ability of each caregiver to access and select correct and appropriate information about COVID-19, and the extent of infection spread in the region were related to “anxiety during COVID-19 pandemic” and caused a “gap in perception” regarding infection control. • Study clarified that the process of aligning the perceptions of caregivers to the objectives and priorities of care for older people with dementia during COVID-19 pandemic strengthened the relationships among caregivers.
<p>07.02.2022</p>	<p>The course of neuropsychiatric symptoms and psychotropic drug use in Dutch nursing home patients with dementia during the first wave of COVID-19: a longitudinal cohort study</p>	<p>Int. J. Geriatric Psych. / Study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longitudinal cohort study aimed to describe the course of neuropsychiatric symptoms in nursing home residents with dementia during the step-by-step lifting of restrictions after the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Netherlands, and to describe psychotropic drug use throughout the whole first wave by following 252 residents with dementia in 19 Dutch nursing homes. • Agitation was the most prevalent type of neuropsychiatric symptom at each assessment. Overall, the prevalence and severity of agitation and depression significantly decreased over time. • Authors observed that in some residents specific neuropsychiatric symptoms resolved (resolution) while in others specific neuropsychiatric symptoms developed (incidence) during the study period. For the majority of the residents, neuropsychiatric symptoms persisted over time. • At group level, lifting the measures appeared to have beneficial effects on the prevalence and severity of agitation and depression in residents with dementia. Nevertheless, on an individual level we observed high heterogeneity in the course of neuropsychiatric symptoms over time. Psychotropic drug use remained stable.

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
07.02.2022	Designated settings for people discharged to a care home	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on the designated settings scheme for people discharged from hospital to a care home with a positive coronavirus (COVID-19) test.

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
08.02.2022	Notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales related to COVID-19 in adult care homes	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notifications related to COVID-19 in adult care homes during the coronavirus pandemic to 2nd February 2022.
08.02.2022	Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England	ONS / CQC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional counts of deaths in care homes caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) by local authority. Published by the Office for National Statistics and Care Quality Commission
08.02.2022	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 coronavirus (COVID-19), in the latest weeks for which data are available.
09.02.2022	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.