



Public Health  
England

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## Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

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

10<sup>th</sup> September 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 Japan, benefits of local committees for infection prevention and control and also of staff training in reducing the impact of COVID-19 on home care agencies; from the USA, impact of dementia on treatment intensity and mortality in patients hospitalised with COVID-19; from Canada, adverse impact of COVID-19 during the first wave on delivery of personal care to people living with dementia in the community; from Malaysia, evidence of factors supporting good psychological health among middle-aged and older people during the COVID-19 pandemic; and from Hong Kong, evidence of the impact of cessation of dementia day care services on measures of stress among carers of people with dementia.

From the UK, impact of COVID-19 on shielded population groups compared to people not shielding; further evidence of the negative psycho-social impacts of COVID-19 lockdown measures on older people; and lessons for end of life care from a mixed methods study in English care homes. Finally, summaries of other recently published reports, guidance and statistics.

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

## Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
26.08.2021	Risk of Covid-19 in shielded and nursing care home patients: cohort study in general practice	BJGP Open / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study sought to determine the risk and determinants of Covid-19 diagnosis in shielded vs. non-shielded groups adjusted for key comorbidities not explained by shielding, using a retrospective cohort study of adults with COVID-19 infection between February and March 2020, in West London.</li> <li>• Shielded individuals had a higher Covid-19 infection rate compared with non-shielded individuals, after adjusting for socio-demographic factors, nursing home status, and comorbidities.</li> </ul>
01.09.2021	Infection prevention and control practice among home-care nursing agencies in Japan: Secondary analysis of a nationwide cross-sectional survey	Geriatrics & Geronton. / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authors conducted a secondary analysis using data from a cross-sectional nationwide survey inspecting patient safety and IPC practices among Japanese home-visit nursing agencies, from March to April 2020.</li> <li>• Adherence to Infection prevention and control (IPC) practices ranged from 19.2% to 92.4% and varied according to agency size. Less than 20% of agencies had instituted a committee for IPC and strictly used disposable aprons when changing patients' diapers</li> <li>• Instituting a committee for IPC and training staff for infection prevention were significantly associated with the incidence of infection, after adjusting for covariates.</li> </ul>
03.09.2021	Hospital advance care planning, treatment intensity, and mortality for COVID-19 patients with dementia	J. American Geriatrics Soc. / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authors sought to determine whether dementia is associated with treatment intensity and mortality in patients hospitalized with COVID-19 through review of the medical records for patients &gt; 60 years of age hospitalized with COVID-19 from 132 community hospitals between March and June, 2020</li> <li>• Relationships between dementia and treatment intensity (including intensive care unit admission (ICU) and mechanical ventilation (MV) and care processes that may influence them, including advance care planning (ACP) billing and do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders) and in-hospital mortality adjusting for age, sex, race/ethnicity, comorbidity,</li> </ul>

			<p>month of hospitalization, and clustering within hospital were all examined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ten percent of the patients had documented dementia. Dementia patients were older, had a lower burden of comorbidity, were more likely to have ACP and a DNR order.</li> <li>• Dementia patients had similar rates of ICU admission, were less likely to receive MV, and were more likely to die</li> <li>• Dementia was associated with lower treatment intensity and higher mortality in patients hospitalized with COVID-19. Differential treatment intensity was concentrated in low-ACP billing hospitals suggesting an interplay between provider bias and “preference-sensitive” care for COVID-19.</li> </ul>
05.09.2021	Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on home care services among community-dwelling adults with dementia	JAMDA / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authors used health administrative databases (Ontario Registered Persons Database and Home Care Database) to measure home care services used by participants to examine how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted use of home care services for individuals with dementia across service types and sociodemographic strata.</li> <li>• During the first wave of the pandemic, personal care fell by 16% compared to historical levels and therapies fell by 50%, while nursing did not significantly decline.</li> <li>• All rates had recovered by September 2020, with nursing and therapies higher than historical levels. Changes in services were largely consistent across sociodemographic strata, although the rural population experienced a larger decline in personal care and smaller rebound in nursing.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
06.09.2021	Mediation effect of coping strategies on general psychological health among middle-aged and older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic	Aging & Mental Health / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 535 individuals aged 52 years and above from the previous cohort and interventional studies in Peninsular Malaysia were contacted during the Movement Control Order (MCO) issued during the COVID-19 pandemic</li> <li>• It was observed that participants had a low mean GHQ-12 score indicating good psychological health. Living arrangement, physical activity, and flourishing scale were associated with psychological health</li> <li>• Authors conclude that middle-aged and older adults in Malaysia had good psychological health during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially</li> </ul>

			<p>when living with family, physically active, and having good subjective well-being.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their findings provide the initial evidence to help promote the ageing population's general well-being and mental health and enable them to cope with change during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> </ul>
<b>06.09.2021</b>	<b>The Effects of COVID-19 Lockdown on Health and Psychosocial Functioning in Older Adults Aged 70 and Over</b>	Gerontol. And Geriatric Medicine / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are many psychosocial consequences of pandemics, with older adults potentially at an increased risk.</li> <li>• This study assessed psychosocial functioning in a sample of older adults in the UK with baseline data collected pre-lockdown and follow-up 12 weeks later during lockdown to allow investigation of the effect of COVID-19 and associated lockdown on psychosocial well-being.</li> <li>• From pre- to during lockdown, perceived stress, well-being, depressive symptoms, mood disturbance and memory were all significantly worsened, although self-reported physical health symptoms, social interaction, time spent engaging in physical activity and certain aspects of relationship quality showed improvements.</li> <li>• Follow-up showed that well-being, depression and mood were still negatively affected post-lockdown.</li> <li>• Given the sample were all 'healthy' at baseline in comparison to established norms, there may be greater impairment in more vulnerable populations.</li> <li>• Support for older populations is needed to mitigate the negative effects shown, particularly in light of the endurance of some of these effects post-lockdown.</li> </ul>
<b>07.09.2021</b>	<b>The Impact of Dementia Daycare Service Cessation Due To COVID-19 Pandemic</b>	Int. J. Geriatric Psychiatry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study aimed at revealing the caregiving challenges of the caregivers of people with dementia (PwD) during the COVID-19 pandemic when daycare service was stopped as an infection control measure, and discussed ways to help PwD and their family caregivers to maintain their well-being in the era of the pandemic</li> <li>• Family caregivers of PwD experienced greater caregiving stress after cessation of daycare service. Infection was their main challenge in caregiving, and their physical and emotional health was adversely affected by the longer time commitment with PwD under the stay-home policy</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older age of caregivers, greater emotional and communication problems of PwD, and more time spent with PwD were associated with greater caregiving stress. More than one-third of the participants preferred the continuation of daycare service during the pandemic</li> <li>• Authors conclude that policy makers should consider the well-being of PwD and their caregivers when planning infection control measures</li> </ul>
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## Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
	<p>End of Life Care in English Care Homes: Governance, Care Work and The Good Death</p>	Teggi, Diana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slides from a presentation given at the 15<sup>th</sup> ESA European Sociological Association Conference, 31 August - 3 September 2021, Barcelona, Spain (Online).</li> <li>• Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, a large proportion of COVID deaths have occurred in care homes. This may be a result of chronic underlying conditions in the care home population.</li> <li>• However, little is known about end of life care (EOLC) in care homes, and the last major study on the topic is more than 25 years-old.</li> <li>• This paper presents ethnographic and qualitative findings from a mixed-methods study of EOLC in five residential and nursing care homes in the South-West of England.</li> <li>• The results show EOLC in care homes is shaped by 4 major factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1) the uncertainty of death's timing in old age;</li> <li>○ 2) the need for staff to predict and anticipate the time of residents' dying;</li> <li>○ 3) the need to balance institutional pressures to keep residents alive (or let them die) with residents' agency and best interest;</li> <li>○ 4) staffing levels enabling or disabling carers to sit and just 'be with' residents as they are dying.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The study highlights complex relationships between failing bodies, existential uncertainty, EOLC governance and relationships of care between staff and residents.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Author argues this should challenge received notions of medicalisation, institutionalisation and social death in very old age, especially in the wake of a pandemic that risks stigmatising care homes as “places for bad living and bad dying”.</li> </ul>
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## Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
07.09.2021	Care home resident deaths registered in England and Wales, provisional	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
07.09.2021	Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
08.09.2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): adult care homes - additional data	Scottish Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland.</li> </ul>