The Experiences of Caregivers of Adults Living with Heart Failure, COPD and Coronary Artery Disease – A Mixed Methods Systematic Review

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Year 1
Background

- 6.5 million people in the UK caring for another person, this number is expected to rise to 9 million by 2037. (Carers UK, 2015)

- Caregiving in the UK is estimated at approximately £132 billion pounds per year. (NHS England, 2014)

- Co-existence of cardiorespiratory conditions. (Falk et al. 2008, Müllerova et al. 2013)


- Gap in the literature of understanding caregivers experiences.
Aims & Objectives

• The overarching objective of this Systematic Review:
  - To understand the experiences of caregivers when caring for individuals with Heart Failure, COPD, Stroke and Coronary Artery Disease?

• Specific aims:
  - Understand the experiences of caregiver interactions with health professionals
  - Identify barriers and supports for caregivers in fulfilling their role
  - Update the literature regarding caregivers
Mixed Methods
Articles retrieved from database searches (n = 15,166)

Articles retrieved from other sources (n = 9)

Excluded: Duplicates (n=7,149)

Excluded: Irrelevant title or abstract (n = 7,060)
Discussion in supervision, consensus to exclude papers related to Stroke (n = 494)

Full Paper review to determine match to protocol question (n = 241)

Excluded: Conference Presentation (n = 26)
Does not meet diagnoses specified in protocol (n = 21)
Population targeted does not meet protocol (n = 45)
Design does not meet protocol criteria (n = 47)
Geographic location does not meet protocol criteria (n = 6)

Full paper review to critically appraise papers (n = 94)

Excluded: Do not meet critical appraisal criteria (n = 36)

Relevant papers for Synthesis: (n = 57)
22 Qual., 34 Quant, 1 MM
RESULTS

EXPERIENCES OF CARERS

Concepts in Qual. papers only

- TIME
- SHARED CARE
- VIGILANCE
- EXPERT BY EXPERIENCE

EXPERIENCES OF CARERS

Qual. & Quant papers

- SUPPORT
- ROLE
- MENTAL HEALTH
- RELATIONSHIPS
- LIFESTYLE CHANGE
- KNOWLEDGE
Strengths & Limitations

• Highly comprehensive mixed methods review.

• Database searches at two time points – Dec 2016 & August 2017.

• In order to find studies comparable to the UK healthcare system studies from higher income countries and English language only were included.

• Challenge of synthesising mixed methods.
Conclusion

• Aggar (2016) describes caregiving as a “diverse, individual and complex experience”.

• Understanding the experiences of caregivers for people allows us to reflect on our approach to improve management of long term chronic conditions.

• Caring can be a positive experience.

• Involving caregivers in intervention process is essential.
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References


Questions?

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