DETERMINANTS OF HOSPITAL READMISSIONS IN OLDER PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA: A NARRATIVE REVIEW

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BACKGROUND

In the UK, 53% of older people with dementia have multiple long-term conditions and are at a higher risk of hospital readmissions within 30 days after discharge [1]. While research mainly focused on biological causes of readmissions, there are several psychosocial factors that can contribute to readmissions in this population.

METHOD

Electronic databases (MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL and PsychInfo) were searched from inception to July 2022. Quantitative and qualitative studies that investigated hospital readmissions involving adults aged 65 and over with dementia, their care workers, and informal carers, were included.

KEY FINDINGS

- Figure 1 describes the process of identifying the final 16 studies that met the inclusion criteria, from a total of 4736 screened studies.
- Diagram 1 illustrates key reasons for people with dementia being readmitted to hospital from their home with a care package.
- Key identified psychosocial determinants were: ***inadequate hospital discharge planning, limited interdisciplinary collaboration, socioeconomic inequalities among ethnic minorities.***
- Key identified biological determinants were: reduced mobility, accumulating long-term conditions.
- Black and ethnic minority people with dementia lived with ***twice the amount of disability*** compared to White people with dementia, and most black people lived in disadvantaged areas (28.6% Black vs. 8.9% non-Hispanic White).

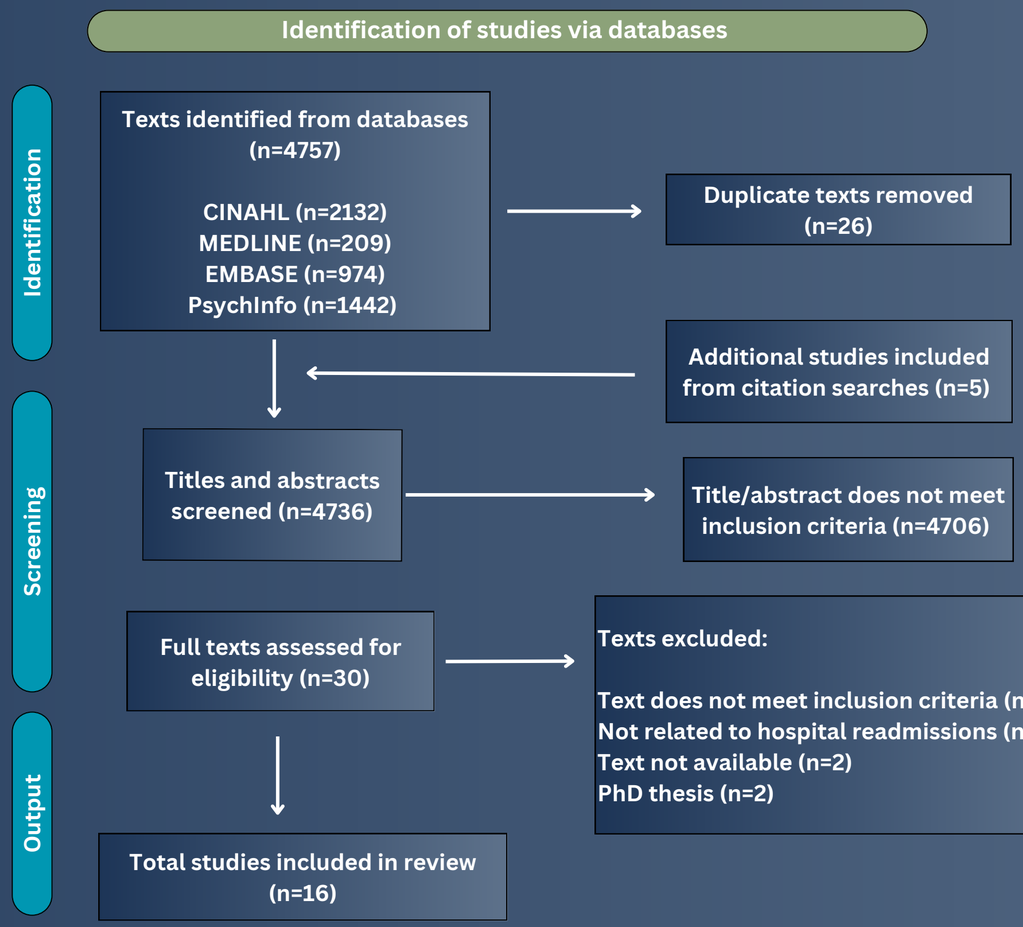


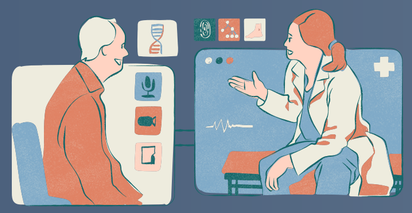
Figure 1 : PRISMA flowchart of the study selection process

- Frequent antipsychotic medication use may explain the interplay between biological and psychosocial determinants.

CONCLUSION

Poorly defined roles and responsibilities of health and social care professionals and poor communication during care transitions, increase the risk of hospital readmissions in older people with dementia. Multidisciplinary interventions are recommended.

Diagram 1: Key reasons for people readmitted from home with a care package



Complex care

Unavailable care resources

Lack of dementia-friendly environments in the community

Unrealistic family beliefs in their ability to provide care

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References 1. Godard-Sebillotte C, Strumpf E, Sourial N, et al L. Primary care continuity and potentially avoidable hospitalization in persons with dementia. J Am Geriatr Soc. 2021;69(5):1208-20.