

Peer support for families of people with Alzheimer's disease

Population	Families and loved ones (or caregivers) of patients with Alzheimer's disease (or of patients in geriatric care more generally)
Intervention/Exposure	Peer support programs for families/peer navigators
Comparator	No peer support
Outcomes	Healthcare experience for patients, patients' family and clinicians; health and well-being for patients' family and caregivers, health quality, costs

Interview Details:

Why did you choose this topic and why is it important to you?

- Has lived experience as a caregiver of a person living with mental illness and as a caregiver of a person living with Alzheimer's disease.
- Families supporting a loved one with Alzheimer's or a similar disease (e.g., dementia) can experience difficult situations and could benefit from that kind of support.
- Peer support can bring important relief and contribute to the well-being of families of people with mental health issues, by bringing empathy and help coming from someone having lived a similar situation.
- Peer support workers can also act as a link with healthcare teams and health services, which could positively contribute to health care and care experience.

What do you hope to learn from researching this topic?

- Demonstrate the benefits of peer support programs for families on patients, their families, loved ones and carers, and clinicians.
- Help support organizations to implement peer support programs support for families, for instance by understanding challenges and opportunities.

Who needs to know about the findings?

- Policy-makers
- Clinical directorates at living facilities for older people.
- CIUSSS (integrated university health and social services centers) and CISSSS (Integrated health and social services centers) should be involved in facilitating peer support for families.

Is there anything that you feel a panel of patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, and policy-makers should keep in mind when reviewing this topic?

- Peer support is getting more widespread.
- It is an approach that is getting more widely known and frequently requested by patients and their loved ones. Having research results about peer support could contribute to increase the reach of this approach.

Feasibility Assessment Results

Summary:

No reviews were identified during the scoping literature search.

Conclusion:

There is scope to conduct further research in this area.