



## Digital Health Literacy for Older Adults: A Rapid Scoping Review Protocol

### Summary

Research on digital health literacy for older adults is vital to understanding how this population access essential services, stay connected, and manage their health in an increasingly digital world. This research also presents an opportunity for us to identify the challenges older adults face and develop targeted interventions that promote inclusion, improve quality of life, and empower them to thrive within a technology-driven society.

### Implications

This study can inform policies and practices that sustain lifelong learning and adaption to new digital health technologies.

**Reference:** Tricco AC, Theiventhran D, Navaratnerajah L, Sayfi S, Rangira D, Arulseivan A, Mahood Q, Gunderson J, Macdonald M, Cormack G, Grossman M, Straus SE. Digital Health Literacy for Older Adults: A Rapid Scoping Review Protocol. 2023. <https://osf.io/a7vs3>

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### What is the current situation?

- Digital health literacy is defined as the ability to find, understand, and use health information online to make informed decisions about one's health. As more health services move online—and with an aging population and a growing number of people living with chronic conditions—these skills are becoming increasingly important for staying healthy and accessing the care people need.

### What is the objective?

- To conduct a rapid scoping review investigating digital health literacy among older adults and,
  - Identify existing strategies, resources and interventions related to digital health literacy for older adults.
  - Determine key concepts in digital health literacy and categorize the strategies and resources found in the literature.
  - Find the gaps that exist in the literature, along with the barriers and facilitators to supporting digital health literacy among older adults.

### How will the review be conducted?

- **Eligibility criteria:** PICO
  - **Population:** Older adults aged ≥60 years and their caregivers.
  - **Intervention:** Includes studies that identify any type of digital health literacy strategy.
  - **Context:** All settings included; If we find a large number of studies, we will limit to high-income countries according to the World Bank.
  - **Outcomes:** Primary outcomes will include studies reporting on any health literacy outcomes access, computer skills and knowledge. Equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations will be included using PROGRESS-PLUS.
- **Literature search:** We will refer to the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) guide to scoping reviews and the World Health Organization (WHO) guide to rapid reviews for the methodology of this rapid scoping review. We plan to conduct the literature search on MEDLINE, Embase and the Cochrane library. We aim to consider English only studies and place no time limit. Qualitative studies will be excluded. For Grey literature search, we will refer to Canada's Drug Agency (CDA) Grey Matters, TRIP database, Google and additional selected websites related to our eligibility criteria.
- **Study selection:** Title and abstract screening (Level 1) will be completed on Continuous Active Learning (CAL<sup>®</sup>) tool to identify articles to be screened further. Full-text (Level 2) screening will be conducted on Synthesi.SR, the team's propriety online software. We will use a screening form based on the pre-defined eligibility criteria and that has been piloted, to guide identification of relevant studies.
- **Data abstraction/collection:** The team will design a data extraction document based on the predefined eligibility criteria and will report: study and participant characteristics, type of digital literacy intervention and outcomes examined. Outcome results will only be abstracted for the primary outcome. We will pilot the document on five articles, and revise accordingly. After consensus, the team will extract the data, verify, and resolve any discrepancies. We will also contact study authors for any missing data.
- **Synthesis:** We will use the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses) extension for scoping reviews (PRISMA-ScR) to guide reporting of results. We will present summarized data categorically and descriptively.

### Knowledge Translation Strategy

- We will disseminate our findings through a peer-reviewed publication, a lay summary distributed across our networks, and a knowledge mobilization presentation featuring both the research results and patient-partners' reflections on their lived experiences.

