

CADTH RAPID RESPONSE REPORT: SUMMARY OF ABSTRACTS

Chest X-Rays Prior to Placement in Long-Term Care Facilities: Clinical Utility and Guidelines

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About CADTH: CADTH is an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for providing Canada's health care decision-makers with objective evidence to help make informed decisions about the optimal use of drugs, medical devices, diagnostics, and procedures in our health care system.

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Questions or requests for information about this report can be directed to requests@cadth.ca

Research Questions

1. What is the clinical utility of chest x-rays for the assessment of illness prior to adults being placed in long-term care facilities?
2. What are the evidence-based guidelines associated with assessments for illness prior to adults being placed into long-term care facilities?

Key Findings

No literature was identified regarding the clinical utility of chest x-rays for the assessment of illness prior to adults being placed in long-term care facilities. In addition, no evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding assessments for illness prior to adults being placed into long-term care facilities.

Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including PubMed, the Cochrane Library, the University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy was comprised of both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine’s MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were health assessments and long-term care homes. For research question #1, no methodological search filters were used to limit the search. Search filters were applied to research question #2 to limit retrieval to guidelines. The search was also limited to English language documents published between Jan 1, 2016 and May 13, 2020. Internet links were provided, where available.

This report is a component of a larger CADTH Condition Level Review on TB. A condition level review is an assessment that incorporates all aspects of a condition, from prevention, detection, treatment, and management. For more information on CADTH’s Condition Level Review of TB, please visit the project page (<https://www.cadth.ca/tuberculosis>).

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Population	Adults being assessed for placement in residential care or long-term care facilities
Interventions	Q1: Chest x-ray as an assessment for illness (e.g., but not limited to, tuberculosis, pneumonia) Q2: Chest x-ray or other medical assessments prior to entering a long-term care facility
Comparators	Q1: Other medical exams to assess illness (for tuberculosis and other illnesses); No x-ray; No assessment Q2: No comparator

Outcomes	<p>Q1: Clinical utility (e.g., but not limited to, infection to other patients, infection control, tracking patient baseline tuberculosis)</p> <p>Q2: Guidelines (e.g., are there any other assessments or practices in place for medical illness assessment prior to entering these types of facilities, timing of test [chest x-ray or other medical assessments] prior to placement)</p>
Study Designs	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines

Results

No literature was identified regarding the clinical utility of chest x-rays for the assessment of illness prior to adults being placed in long-term care facilities. In addition, no evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding assessments for illness prior to adults being placed into long-term care facilities.

References of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in the appendix.

Overall Summary of Findings

No relevant literature or evidence-based guidelines were found regarding chest x-rays or other medical assessments of illness prior to adults being placed in long-term care facilities; therefore, no summary can be provided.

References Summarized

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

Appendix — Further Information

Previous CADTH Reports

1. Chest X-Rays Around Placement in Long-Term Care Facilities: A Review of Clinical Utility and Guidelines. Ottawa: CADTH; 2018
<https://www.cadth.ca/chest-x-rays-around-placement-long-term-care-facilities-review-clinical-utility-and-guidelines> Accessed 2020 May 25.

Systematic Reviews

Alternative Outcomes

2. Tuberculosis screening on admission to long-term care homes in Ontario. Toronto: Public Health Ontario; 2019 May.
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/R/2019/report-tb-screening-ltch.pdf?la=en> Accessed 2020 May 25.

Unclear Abstract

3. Herrera Diaz M, Haworth-Brockman M, Keynan Y. Review of Evidence for Using Chest X-Rays for Active Tuberculosis Screening in Long-Term Care in Canada. *Frontiers in public health*. 2020;8:16.
[PubMed: PM32117851](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32117851/)

Clinical Practice Guidelines – Unclear Methodology

4. Control of Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes, 2018. Toronto: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care; 2018.
http://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/reference/RE_SP_Infectn_ctrl_guide_LTC_2018_en.pdf Accessed 2020 May 25.
 See: 4.2.1 Admissions and Returns from Absences, page 40

COVID-19-specific

5. COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes. Toronto: Ontario Ministry of Health; 2020.
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_long_term_care_guidance.pdf Accessed 2020 May 25.
 See: Active Screening for Resident Admissions, Resident Re-Admissions, page 3
6. COVID-19 Management in Long Term Care Facilities Halifax: Government of Nova Scotia; 2020.
<https://novascotia.ca/dhw/ccs/documents/COVID-19-Management-in-LTC-Directive.pdf>
 Accessed 2020 May 25.
 See: 2.2 New Admissions and Re-admissions, page 5
7. COVID-19 Outbreak Guidance for Long Term Care Homes (LTCH). Toronto: Ontario Ministry of Health; 2020.
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/LTCH_outbreak_guidance.pdf Accessed 2020 May 25.
 See: Preventing the Introduction of COVID-19 into LTCHs and Preparedness Measures Before Detection of a Case in LTCHs, New admissions and re-admissions, page 3

Additional References

8. Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes: Recommendations for Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Windsor: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit; 2020.
<https://www.wechu.org/tuberculosis-tb-management/long-term-care-and-retirement-homes-recommendations-tuberculosis-tb> Accessed 2020 May 25.
9. Tuberculosis Risk Screening – Adult Long-term Care Facilities, Group Homes, Mental Health Care Facilities. Kelowna: Interior Health; 2019.
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/QualityCare/IPCManual/Tuberculosis%20Risk%20Screening%20-%20Residential%20Facilities.pdf> Accessed 2020 May 25.
10. Tuberculosis (TB) Screening in Long Term Care and Retirement Homes. Toronto: City of Toronto; date unknown
<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-advice/tuberculosis-tb/workplace-screening-recommendations-for-tuberculosis-tb/tuberculosis-tb-screening-in-long-term-care-and-retirement-homes/> Accessed 2020 May 25.