

Campbell Collaboration Social Welfare Coordinating Group
Title Registration Form

Please complete this form to begin the process of registering a review with the Campbell Collaboration Social Welfare group. When approved by the editorial board, the title and registration form will be posted in the Campbell Library (<http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/Fralibrary2.html>). Please be explicit about what you will and will not do. Use as much space in the form as you wish. Please return the completed form to pel@sfi.dk

1. Title of review (Suggested format: [intervention/s] for [outcome/s] in [problem/population] in [location/situation]. Example: behavioural therapy for reducing violence among adolescents in institutions)

Home visits for prevention of cognitive and functional impairment and for prolonging survival in non-demented elderly people.

2. Background and objective of this review (Briefly describe the problem and the intervention.)

Home visits of the elderly aimed at preventing/reducing institutionalisation/hospitalisation and functional decline are part of UK, Danish and other government's policies. It is argued that such visits: (1) delay onset of disability and dependency; (2) prevent/postpone need for more intensive, more costly forms of care, and (3) improve well being and quality of life of older people. Reviews of the literature already carried out however, have reported conflicting results often with weak methodology and the value of such visits remains questionable.

Discrepant findings between existing reviews may be explained by the number and variety of studies included, and it is unclear which components of home visits may be effective and who is most likely to benefit. It is also uncertain whether there are other elements/processes involved which may influence the effectiveness of preventive visits.

The purpose of this latest review is to resolve this controversy by broadening the literature search of this area in order to evaluate the possible differing effects of: (1) content and focus of such visits e.g. risk reduction/safety, health screening such as use of the comprehensive geriatric assessment tools now available, surveillance, information giving; (2) who is delivering such a programme eg. health visitor, social worker, practice nurse, geriatrician; and (3) influence of non-health issues ie. quality of life (social support and networks) on outcome.

3. Define the population (Who is included and who is excluded?)

Non-demented men and women 65 years and older living independently at home.

4. Intervention/s (What is given, by whom, and for how long? What are the comparison conditions?)

Home visits by health professional - sub grouped by type (e.g. health visitor, social worker, geriatrician, district nurse, other) and by focus of visit (e.g. usual care including risk reduction/safety, health screening, surveillance, or those which include comprehensive geriatric assessment which result in specific recommendations aimed at reducing/treating problems and preventing new ones). Visits relating to recent hospital discharge will be excluded.

5. Outcome/s (What are the intended effects of the intervention? Primary and secondary outcomes should all be mentioned.)

- (i) mortality
- (ii) quality of life
- (iii) cognitive function
- (iv) physical function
- (v) physical illness
- (vi) psychiatric illness

6. Methodology (What types of studies are included and excluded? Please describe eligible study designs, control/comparison groups, measures, and duration of follow-ups.)

Randomised controlled trials and parallel cohort group designs will be included.

Principal Reviewer/s

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Do you need support in any of these areas: methodology and causal inference, systematic searches, coding, statistics (meta-analysis)?

Please could you let us know what might be available?

Once the editorial board approves the registration of your title, you have six months to complete the protocol. If the protocol is not finished after six months, the review area is opened up for others.

Revised 6 October 2005