

A Scoping Review of Family–reported Outcome (FRO) Screening Programs in Chronic Disease Care

Sylvie Lambert^{1,2}, RN, PhD, Li–Anne Audet¹, RN, MSc, PhD Candidate, Lydia Ould Brahim¹, RN, MSc(A), PhD Candidate,,Jamie Schaffler², RN, MSc(A), Cecilia Garcia Ramirez¹, RN, MSc, Francesca Frati³, BFA, MLIS, Sonya Sangha, RN, MSN,⁴ Fuschia Howard⁵, RN, PhD, Leah Lambert^{4,5}, RN, PhD

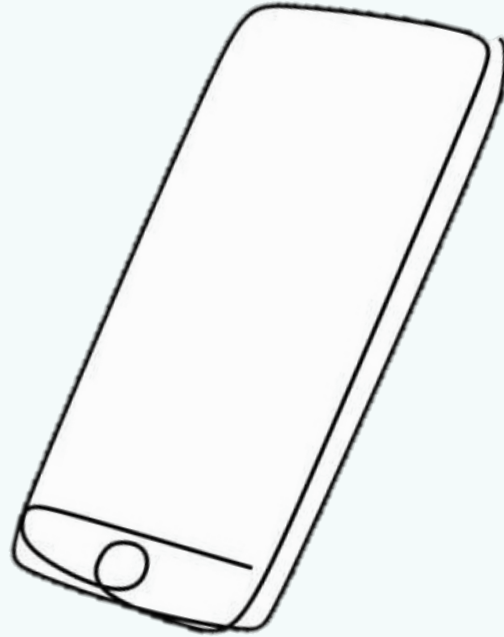
BACKGROUND

Screening for patient–reported outcomes (PROs) like symptoms, distress, or quality of life is a cornerstone of chronic disease management. Screening for PROs supports:

- Patients in **learning to self–monitor** (a self–management skill critical to targeting behaviour change)
- Allows clinicians to **identify priority issues** and **tailor their interventions**

Caregivers (unpaid family members or friends) provide most of the care for those with chronic conditions.¹ However, with limited formal support, caregivers often experience negative health consequences themselves.²

Despite this, limited attention has been paid to similar screening for caregivers, called **family–reported outcomes (FROs)**.



OBJECTIVES

Identify the extent to which FRO screening programs for caregivers of patients with a chronic illness have been developed, evaluated, and implemented, including types of FROs and effects of using FROs on caregivers.

METHODS

A scoping review to identify FRO screening programs for caregivers of adults with chronic conditions was undertaken following guidance by PRISMA–ScR³ and the Johanna Briggs Institute (JBI).⁴

FRO programs were defined as planned collections of FROs from caregivers, which were reviewed by a healthcare professional (or dedicated interventionist) with the goal of tailoring their follow–up care/interventions to the results.

Iterative searches included four electronic databases, ProQuest dissertations and theses, reference lists of included articles, and citations of included full texts in Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar.

Inter–rater reliability was established for screening and data were extracted and verified by a second author. Data were summarized using frequency counts and quantifying text.

