

## **A Scoping Review of Family-Reported Outcome (FRO) Screening Programs in Chronic Disease Care**

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**Background:** Screening for patient-reported outcomes (PROs) (e.g., symptoms) supports patients in learning to self-monitor, a self-management skill critical to targeting behaviour change, and allows clinicians to identify priority issues. While PROs screening is a cornerstone of chronic illness care, similar screening for caregivers, family-reported outcomes (FROs), has received less attention.

**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 was primarily undertaken through iterative searches of four electronic databases. Secondary searches included grey literature and 'snowball' strategies. Data were extracted and summarized using frequency counts of items and quantifying text.

**Preliminary results:** 36 manuscripts detailing 16 distinct FRO programs (18 manuscripts described versions of one program), mainly in Australia, were retained. Participants were 4304 caregivers who were most commonly women spouses of the patients who predominantly had cancer or were receiving palliative care. Caregivers were mainly screened with FROs twice and nearly all related to caregiver needs (e.g., information) or their distress. Nurses most often responded to the FROs. In over half of the programs, a shared action plan was developed with clinicians and 5 programs provided caregivers with resources.

**Conclusion:** Findings seek to contribute to successful development and implementation of FRO screening programs.

**Registered protocol:** <https://osf.io/daqnm>

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