

Table 1: Research strategies

Databases	Search strategies	Total records
Cochrane Library Plus	coronavirus AND “old people” AND famil* Filters: Title, Abstract, Keyword	1
Pubmed	((((COVID-19 OR "COVID-19 pandemic" OR "SARS-CoV-2 infection" OR "COVID-19 virus disease" OR "COVID-19 virus infection" OR "SARS-CoV-2" OR Coronavirus)) AND (Family OR Relatives OR "Family members")) AND ('aged' OR 'elder' OR 'older' OR 'old people' OR 'old person' OR 'old adult' OR 'senior' OR 'retired' OR 'veteran' OR 'ageing' OR 'aging') [all] Filters: publication date (1 year), language (English, Portuguese y Spanish), Age (+65 years and 80 and over); species (humans).	465
Web of Science	THEME: (COVID-19) AND THEME: (Family) AND THEME: ("older adults") Filters: Time period: All years.	45
Scopus	(TITLE-ABS-KEY (covid-19 OR "COVID-19 pandemic" OR "SARS-CoV-2 infection" OR "COVID-19 virus disease" OR "COVID-19 virus infection" OR "SARS-CoV-2" OR coronavirus) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (family OR relatives OR "Family members") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ('aged' OR 'elder' OR 'older' OR 'old AND people' OR 'old AND person' OR 'old AND adult' OR 'senior' OR 'retired' OR 'veteran' OR 'ageing' OR 'aging'))	215

Table 2: Summary of data results

Authors (year)	Title	Country	Journal	Database	Research Objectives	Type of study	Main findings
Banskota, S.; Healy, M.; Goldberg, E.M. (2020)	15 Smartphone Apps for Older Adults to Use While in Isolation During the COVID-19 Pandemic	United States of America	Western Journal of Emergency Medicine	Pubmed, Web of Science, Scopus	To find and explore applications, which can be employed by older people and families to potentially address older people’s health, social isolation and daily needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Narrative review	The use of mobile technologies such as applications (app) for healthcare purposes support the care of older people who live in nursing homes during social isolation and outbreaks. Its use potentially protects older people from loneliness and helps to improve their health and wellbeing, maintain independence and, to stay connected with their families in times of visitor’s restrictions due to COVID-19.
Behrens & Naylor (2020)	“We are Alone in This Battle”: A Framework for a Coordinated Response to COVID-19 in Nursing Homes	United States of America	Journal of Aging & Social Policy	Not applied	To describe a framework and offers ideas for its use by decision-makers, both internal to nursing homes (i.e., nursing home administrators, directors of nursing), and external to nursing homes (i.e., county health departments, policymakers at all levels).	Narrative review	Nursing home residents are arguably the most vulnerable population to the human devastation wrought by this pandemic.
Hado, E. & Friss, L. (2020)	Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, Meaningful Communication between Family Caregivers and Residents of	United States of America	Journal of Aging & Social Policy	Pubmed, Web of Science, Scopus	To describe and identify proactive solutions for maintaining the family caregiver role during the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to ensure the communication between family, residents and institutions.	Narrative review	The connectivity between family caregivers and older adults residents in nursing homes is crucial for maintaining their health and wellbeing during pandemic times. Nursing homes and long-term care institutions should foster the inclusion of families in the present COVID-19 pandemic, mainly facilitating continuous and meaningful family

	Long-Term Care Facilities is Imperative						communication with residents and staff members.
Miller, E.A. (2020)	Protecting and Improving the Lives of Older Adults in the COVID-19 Era	United States of America	Journal of Aging & Social Policy	Pubmed	To explore the influences of COVID-19 pandemic on older adults and their families, caregivers, and communities.	Narrative review	Aging policy are needed to response to the pandemic influence on older adults and their families lives. Government must act about the spread of the virus and it socioeconomic impact.
O’Caoimh, R.; O’Donovan, M.R.; Monahan, M.P.; O’Connor, C.D.; Buckley, C.; Kilty, C.; Fitzgerald, S.; Hartigan, I. & Cornally, N. (2020)	Psychosocial Impact of COVID-19 Nursing Home Restrictions on Visitors of Residents With Cognitive Impairment: A Cross-Sectional Study as Part of the Engaging Remotely in Care (ERiC) Project	Ireland	Frontiers in Psychiatry	Scopus	To examine the effects of COVID-19 visiting restrictions on measures of perceived loneliness, well-being, and carer quality of life amongst visitors of residents with and without cognitive impairment in Irish residential care facilities.	Original article. Descriptive study.	The results indicate that many nursing home visitors are experiencing low psychological and emotional well-being during this pandemic. Low levels of well-being were identified in the cases of residents with cognitive impairment families.
Sacco, G.; Léonart, S.; Simon, R.; Noublanche, F. & Annweiler, C. (2020)	Communication Technology Preferences of Hospitalized and Institutionalized Frail Older Adults During COVID-19 Confinement:	France	JMIR Mhealth and Uhealth	Scopus, Pubmed	To determine which virtual communication method (ie, telephone call or video call) was preferred by confined older hospital patients and nursing home residents and which variables influencing this preference.	Original paper	Older people confined to health care settings preferred to use video calls more than telephone calls. The satisfaction degrees were greater with video calls among long-term care and nursing home residents when they were given assistance to establish

	Cross-Sectional Survey Study						communication. Nevertheless, they were able to complete telephone calls more independently than video calls.
Stokes & Patterson (2020)	Intergenerational Relationships, Family Caregiving Policy, and COVID-19 in the United States	USA	Journal of Aging & Social Policy	Not applied	To examine the implications of multigenerational family relationships for COVID-19 exposure and transmission, with a particular focus on the caregiving roles.	Narrative review	Families and intergenerational relationships may be an underexplored source of risk for transmission of COVID-19.
Strang, P.; Bergström, J.; Martinsson, L. & Lundström, S. (2020)	Dying From COVID-19: Loneliness, End-of-Life Discussions, and Support for Patients and Their Families in Nursing Homes and Hospitals. A National Register Study	Sweden	Journal of Pain and Symptom Management	Pubmed	To study whether End of Life discussions were offered and to what degree patients were alone at time of death when dying from COVID-19, whether family members were offered bereavement support, and to compare deaths in nursing homes and hospitals.	Original article. Descriptive study	Dying from COVID-19 negatively affects the possibility of holding an EOL discussion and the chances of dying with someone present. This study shows us the considerable social and existential consequences for both patients and families dying alone.
Ting-Chun, Y.; Hui-Chun, H.; Ting-Yu, Y.; Wang-Ting, H.; Hsiu-Chen, H.; Yao-Mao, C. & Wei, C. (2020)	Family members' concerns about relatives in long-term care facilities: Acceptance of visiting restriction policy amid the	Taiwan	Geriatrics & Gerontology International	Pubmed	This study aimed to explore family members' concerns for their relatives during the lockdown period, assess their level of acceptance of the visiting restriction policy and determine the associated factors.	Original article. Descriptive study	This study suggests that the most common concern of family members for their relative in an long term care facilities were psychological stress during the lockdown period.

	COVID-19 pandemic						
Verbeek, H.; Gerritsen, D.; Backhaus, R.; de Boer, B.S.; Koopmans, H.R.T.C.M. & Hamers, J.P.H. (2020)	Allowing Visitors Back in the Nursing Home During the COVID-19 Crisis: A Dutch National Study Into First Experiences and Impact on Well-Being	Netherlands	Journal of the American Medical Directors Association	Pubmed	To study the application of a Netherlands national guideline in the local context of nursing homes in order to allow visitors to go back in the nursing homes.	Original article. Descriptive study (Mixed methods).	This study reveals the positive impact that real and personal contact between families and residents have in the everyday life of older adults who live in nursing homes.

