

Interventions to prevent, mitigate and treat medical traumatic stress in children with chronic conditions and their families: a scoping review

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BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES: Medical trauma (MT) is a critical but largely neglected issue that encompasses the physical and psychological reactions to illness and invasive treatment experiences and can lead to post-traumatic stress symptoms. Children with chronic diseases are at particular risk due to their high needs for ongoing healthcare services. Although trauma-informed care (TIC) principles are widely known and accepted in Alberta hospitals, there is a gap in their translation into practice and adaptation to MT. A MT working group was convened by the Maternal Newborn, Child, and Youth Strategic Clinical Network™ Patient and Family Advisory Council to address this issue and partner in ongoing research to fill this knowledge-to-practice gap. Additional funding was obtained through the MSI Foundation. The first objective is to map the existing literature for trauma-informed interventions that have been evaluated in the healthcare setting. The second objective is to conduct a grey literature search to identify resources publicly available to providers and caregivers.

SCOPING REVIEW METHODS:

- JBI methodology for scoping reviews was used.
- Articles related to trauma-informed care for children with chronic disease or disability will be identified through EMBASE, CINAHL, Web of Science, MEDLINE and PsycInfo
- Abstracted data will include authors, participants, objectives, methodology, and key findings.
- Screening of titles, abstracts, and full-text articles will be conducted by two researchers. Data extraction will be pilot tested on the first 5 studies then completed by a single researcher.

GREY LITERATURE SEARCH METHODS:

- A grey literature search was conducted using Google and targeted searches on relevant websites.
- Data was abstracted and appraised using the AACODS checklist.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) & Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis+ (SGBA+) Considerations: In the scoping review, we will record whether equity-deserving groups have been identified and considered in the design and reporting of results. In the grey literature search resources with EDI considerations or targeted interventions to equity deserving groups were recorded.

Summary of Grey Literature Resources

Category	Resources (repeats possible within categories)		
Type of Intervention	Framework (n= 35)	Intervention (n= 19)	Screening (n= 2)
Intended Audience	Caregivers (n= 10)	Providers (n= 10)	
Targeted Population	Young Children (n= 39)	Adolescents (n= 41)	Parents/families (n= 12)
Type of Trauma	General Trauma (n= 22)	Medical Trauma (n= 22)	Adverse Childhood Experiences (n= 5)
Proposed Setting	Inpatient (n= 30)	Outpatient (n= 29)	Specific Setting (n= 4)
Country of Origin	Canada (n= 8)	United States (n= 37)	Australia (n= 4)
EDI Considerations	Racial Inequity (n= 2)	LGBTQIA2S+ (n= 2)	Cultural (n= 3)

RESULTS: The grey literature search produced a wide range of interventions that can be utilized by caregivers and providers to mitigate the effect of pediatric medical traumatic stress.

CONCLUSIONS: The scoping review is ongoing and along with the grey literature search will provide a crucial knowledge synthesis that will be directly used by the research team to aid in creating an intervention co-designed by caregivers and providers to be pilot tested at both pediatric tertiary hospitals in Alberta.

Grey Literature Search PRISMA-ScR Flow Diagram

