

A scoping review, systematic review and meta-synthesis – performed in partnership with persons who have lived experience of cardiac arrest care

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Background

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death. Family members can be deeply impacted by sudden loss or uncertainty about survivor outcomes.

Aim of the study

The aims of this scoping review, systematic review and meta-analysis was to identify, map, appraise, and meta-synthesize qualitative evidence regarding family care-needs when experiencing cardiac arrest.

Methods

Our scoping review, as well as our meta-synthesis, was guided by accepted methodological frameworks and reporting items as well as best practices in patient and public involvement. Two team members independently reviewed studies, extracted data, and assessed methodological quality. Thematic synthesis was used to coding and grouping of codes, form descriptive themes, and develop novel insights. Our protocol was registered CRD42021236431 and <https://osf.io/fxp5g>.

Results

Forty seven articles examining the experience and care needs of families were identified. Forty one articles were analysed. Ten family care need themes were identified across five domains: i) focus on the family member in cardiac arrest, ii) collaboration of the resuscitation team and family, iii) consideration of family context, iv) family post-resuscitation needs, and v) dedicated policies and procedures. We created a conceptual model of family centred cardiac arrest care. Our meta-synthesis is currently underway, our findings will be available by the Spring of 2022.

Conclusions and implications

Our review provides a comprehensive mapping and description of the experience of families and their care needs during the cardiac arrest of a family-member. Our work provides a methodological template for others who want to perform reviews with patient and public involvement.