

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

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ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Social Work's Scope of Practice in the Provision of Primary Mental Health Care: Protocol for a Scoping Review
AUTHORS	Ashcroft, Rachele; Kourgiantakis, Toula; Brown, Judith

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Jussara Carvalho dos Santos School of Nursing - University of Sao Paulo, Brazil and School of Social Sciences -Bangor University, UK
REVIEW RETURNED	18-Sep-2017

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>The paper is important for Social Worker and your Practice in the Provision of the Primary Mental Health care and is original. It has quality and is adequate for this journal.</p> <p>It is a study for the creation of a protocol to map the practice in mental health of social workers in primary care. The method used is the scoping review developed by Arksey and O'Malley published in 2005 in the International Journal of Social Research Methodology.</p> <p>I believe that the study proposal is important for the practice of these professionals as well as it is original and quality. It has solid scientific proposal and collaborates with the proposal of the journal.</p> <p>I suggest minor revision, due to minor issues, that follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 3, line 11: Specify the type of publication to be analysed (scientific article, thesis, etc), besides mentioning "limited to English". Thus, it becomes more objective for the reader. • Page 7, line 40: In order to make it clear to the reader, I suggest you make the same change as above.
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REVIEWER	Liz Beddoe University of Auckland New Zealand
REVIEW RETURNED	20-Sep-2017

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>This is an important project for social work as guidance for practice in primary health is under-developed in our profession. This proposed scoping review will be a useful first step in improving knowledge and guidelines for a scope of practice.</p> <p>The method is clearly described and well thought out. My only two suggestions are 1) explain a little more fully why the authors have chosen to focus on mental health and explain what will be excluded as a consequence, 2) expand on how the completed scoping review will be used to have wider impact. E.g beyond the usual dissemination in conference and journals. How will it be directly applied to a wider audience in the profession, such as the practitioner audience?</p>
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer Comment: "explain a little more fully why the authors have chosen to focus on mental health and explain what will be excluded as a consequence".

Response: The following has been added to the background section:

"Social workers in primary health care settings often provide care to diverse patient populations and engage in a broad range of practice areas that is inclusive, but not limited to mental health care⁵. Within primary health care settings, social workers provide care related to chronic disease, geriatrics, palliative care, grief, trauma, parenting, and a multitude of psychosocial issues.⁵ According to a recent study investigating social work's emerging role in primary health care, mental health care is a core practice area with 96% of study participants indicating that they provided mental health care on a daily basis⁵. Although social workers in primary health care settings provide care to a diverse range of practice areas, our scoping review will focus on mental health care because it is a core practice area for social workers in primary health care settings.⁵ Doing so will also help guide current healthcare reforms that are striving to enhance the capacity of primary mental health care⁵⁻⁸. By focusing solely on mental health care, our scoping review is not intended to minimize the importance of other areas of care in which social work is engaged."

Reviewer Comment: "expand on how the completed scoping review will be used to have wider impact. E.g beyond the usual dissemination in conference and journals. How will it be directly applied to a wider audience in the profession, such as the practitioner audience?"

Response: The following has been added to the Dissemination and Ethics section:

"Results of this scoping review study will be disseminated through a conference presentation that engages an audience of social work practitioners in primary health care and a peer-reviewed publication. All members of the research team have established relationships with social work and primary health care networks which will also be used to disseminate findings. Our aim is to use findings from this scoping review to help guide future research with social worker practitioners in primary health care to better understand how best to support them in the provision of quality mental health care."

Reviewer Comment: "Page 3, line 11: Specify the type of publication to be analysed (scientific article, thesis, etc), besides mentioning "limited to English". Thus, it becomes more objective for the reader.

Page 7, line 40: In order to make it clear to the reader, I suggest you make the same change as above."

Response: We have made revisions to Page 3, line 11 and Page 7, line 40 as per reviewers suggestion. As well, we have made a few minor grammatical revisions. All revisions have been made using tracked changes.