COVID-19 CADTH REFERENCE LIST

Testing for COVID-19 in Correctional Facilities: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines

This report was published on May 1, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

To produce this report, CADTH used a modified approach to the selection, appraisal, and synthesis of the evidence to meet decision-making needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Care has been taken to ensure the information is accurate and complete, but it should be noted that international scientific evidence about COVID-19 is changing and growing rapidly.
Research Questions

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of testing all new admissions for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in correctional facilities?
2. What is the clinical effectiveness of mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the facility) for COVID-19 in correctional facilities?
3. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding testing new admissions for COVID-19 in correctional facilities?
4. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the use of mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the facility) for COVID-19 in correctional facilities?

Key Findings

No literature was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of testing all new admissions or mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the facility) for COVID-19 in correctional facilities. Additionally, no evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding testing new admissions or the use of mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the facility) for COVID-19 in correctional facilities.

Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including Medline, the Cochrane Library, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy was comprised of both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine’s MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were correctional facilities and COVID-19. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2018 and April 29, 2020.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

| Populations | Q1, Q3: Newly admitted individuals in correctional facilities  
Q2, Q4: All individuals in correctional facilities (including staff) |
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<tr>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Testing for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) using any method (e.g., lab-based tests, point of care tests)</td>
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| Comparators | Q1, Q2: Not testing for COVID-19; standard care  
Q3, Q4: Not applicable |
| Outcomes    | Q1, Q2: Clinical effectiveness (e.g., mortality, rates of transmission)  
Q3, Q4: Recommendations regarding best practices (e.g., guidance around who should be tested and which methods should be used for testing) |
| Study Designs| Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines |
Results

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports and systematic reviews are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

No literature was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of testing all new admissions or mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the facility) for COVID-19 in correctional facilities. Additionally, no evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding testing new admissions or the use of mass testing (i.e., testing everyone within the facility) for COVID-19 in correctional facilities.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies
No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations
No literature identified.
Appendix — Further Information

Clinical Practice Guidelines — Unclear Methodology

   See “Management of Incarcerated/Detained Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms” Section

   See “Health Services Evaluation” Section

   See Section 13. ASSESSING SUSPECTED CASES OF COVID-19 IN PEOPLE IN PRISON/DETENTION

Additional References