

CADTH RAPID RESPONSE REPORT: SUMMARY OF ABSTRACTS

# Weighted Blankets for Dementia Care in Long-Term Care: Clinical Effectiveness, Cost-Effectiveness, and Guidelines

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**Funding:** CADTH receives funding from Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments, with the exception of Quebec.

## Research Questions

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of using weighted blankets for patients with dementia in long-term care?
2. What is the cost-effectiveness of using weighted blankets for patients with dementia in long-term care?
3. What are the evidence-based guidelines associated with the use of weighted blankets for patients with dementia in long-term care?

## Key Findings

No relevant literature was identified regarding the use of weighted blankets for dementia patients in long-term care.

## Methods

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, the Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD), PsycInfo and Medline via OVID, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2014 and January 22, 2019. Internet links were provided, where available.

## Selection Criteria

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

**Table 1: Selection Criteria**

<b>Population</b>	Residents with dementia residing in long term care
<b>Intervention</b>	Weighted blankets
<b>Comparator</b>	Q1-2: Physical restraints and/or medication Other therapeutic strategies (e.g. cognitive, behavior therapy) No comparator Q3: No comparator
<b>Outcomes</b>	Q1: Clinical effectiveness; safety (harms and benefits) Q2: Cost-effectiveness Q3: Guidelines
<b>Study Designs</b>	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, economics evaluations, evidence based guidelines

## Results

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

No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, economic evaluations, or evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of weighted blankets for patients with dementia in long-term care.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

## Overall Summary of Findings

No relevant literature was identified regarding the use of weighted blankets for patients with dementia in long-term care; therefore, no summary can be provided.

## References Summarized

### 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.

### Economic Evaluations

No literature identified.

### Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

## Appendix — Further Information

### Previous CADTH Reports

1. Weighted modalities for adults with mental illness: clinical effectiveness. (*CADTH Rapid response report: reference list*). Ottawa (ON): CADTH; 2015: <https://cadth.ca/weighted-modalities-adults-mental-illness-clinical-effectiveness>. Accessed 2019 Jan 23.

### Randomized Controlled Trials – Ongoing Trial in Recruitment Phase

2. Mayo Clinic. NCT03643991: Decreasing agitation in patients with dementia through the use of weighted blankets. *ClinicalTrials.gov*. Bethesda (MD): U.S. National Library of Medicine; 2018: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03643991>. Accessed 2019 Jan 23.

### Additional References

3. Champagne, T. The therapeutic use of weighted blankets. 2018: <https://www.ot-innovations.com/clinical-practice/sensory-modulation/the-therapeutic-use-of-weight/>. Accessed 2019 Jan 23.

### *Outside of Five Year Search Time Frame*

4. Dementia Behaviour Management Advisory Services (DBMAS) WA. Weighted blankets and lap bags in dementia care; 2012: <https://docplayer.net/44790080-Dementia-behaviour-management-advisory-services-dbmas-wa.html>. Accessed 2019 Jan 23.
5. Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux. Weighted blankets and vests: safety, efficacy and issues related to their use in different intervention settings. Montreal (QC): INESS; 2010: [https://www.inesss.qc.ca/fileadmin/doc/AETMIS/Rapports/ServicesSociaux/2010\\_04\\_res\\_en.pdf](https://www.inesss.qc.ca/fileadmin/doc/AETMIS/Rapports/ServicesSociaux/2010_04_res_en.pdf). Accessed 2019 Jan 23.