

Background

- Family physicians play an important role in healthcare systems.
- Their scope of practice could range from clinical activities in primary care to the ones in hospital.
- However, the synthesis of evidence regarding the benefits from scope of practice among family physicians has not yet been explored.

Objective

Assess the effects regarding the scope of practice on the family physicians' outcomes.

Methods

- Study performed:** a rapid literature review.
- Knowledge users' involvement:** consulted at main steps of the review.

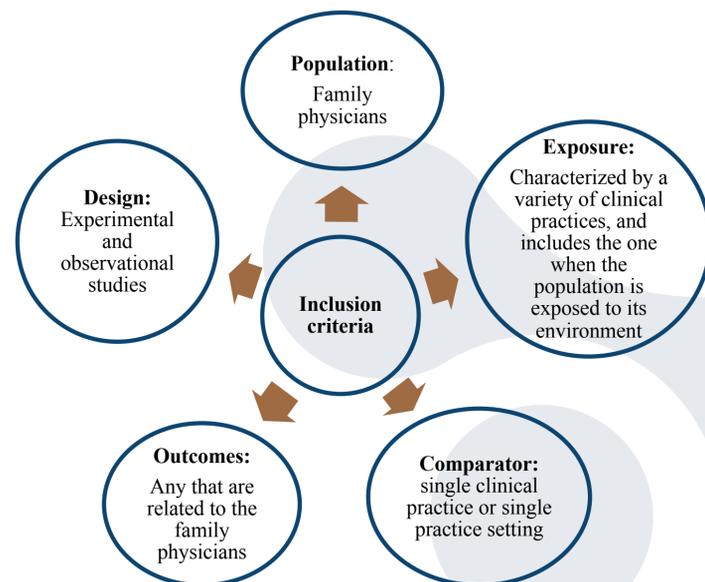


Figure 1: Eligibility criteria for the studies

Search strategy

- Bibliographic databases consulted:** PubMed, EMBASE and ERIC.
- Consultation period of databases:** January 1966 to August 2018.
- Period restriction:** Over the past five years to quickly reply to decision makers.
- Validation with **potential knowledge users**.

Study selection

- Pilot phase.
- Studies were independently selected by two reviewers.
- Final selection was determined by representatives of **potential knowledge users**.

Data extraction and study quality assessment

- Data extraction and study quality assessment were independently performed by two reviewers.
- Data extracted were validated by representatives of **potential knowledge users**.
- Tools used for this quality assessment: Joanna Briggs Institute Critical Appraisal Checklist for Analytical Cross Sectional Studies and Newcastle-Ottawa Scale for cohort studies.

Data Synthesis:

- We performed a narrative synthesis of data extracted.
- Potential knowledge users** were involved in data synthesis

Funding

Health and Social Services Systems, Knowledge Translation and Implementation component of the Quebec SPOR-SUPPORT Unit, and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Shared Decision Making and Knowledge Translation, CIHR.

Results

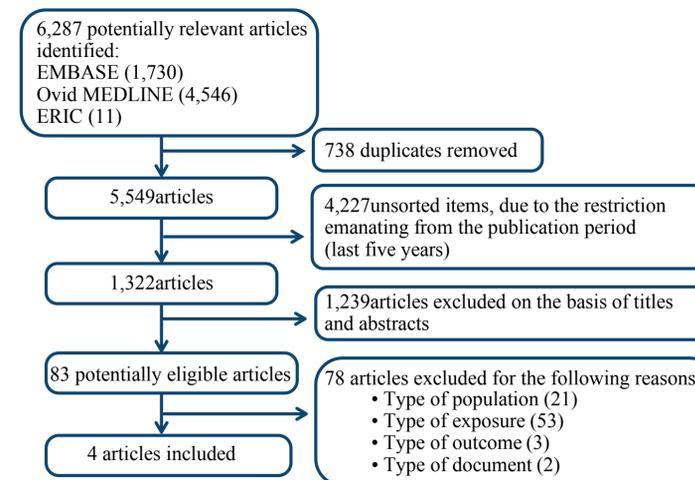


Figure 2 : PRISMA flowchart for the study selection

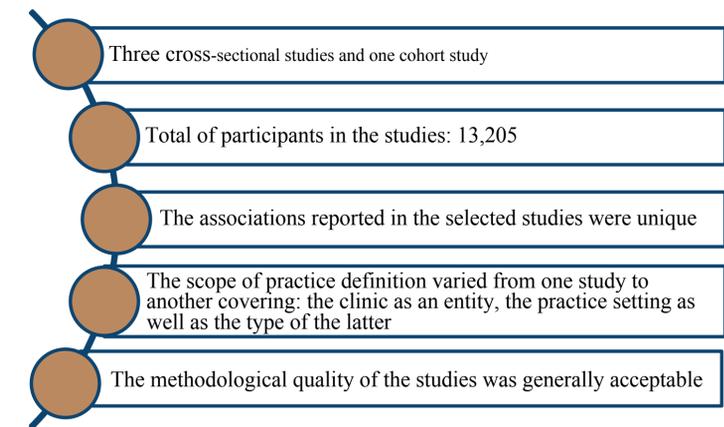


Figure 3: Characteristics of studies selected

Table 1: Association between the scope of practice and the family physicians' outcomes

The scope of practice	The family physicians' outcomes	Odds ratios [95% confidence interval]
Primary care + Prenatal care without delivery <i>versus</i> Primary care	The insertion or removal of an implant	9.04 [5.93;13.43]
Primary care + Prenatal care without delivery <i>versus</i> Primary care	The ability to place or otherwise remove intrauterine or long-acting contraceptive devices	3.40 [1.90;6.10]
Primary care + Hospital medicine <i>versus</i> Primary care	The appearance of burnout	0.70 [0.56;0.87]
Primary care + Obstetrical care <i>versus</i> Primary care	The appearance of burnout	0.64 [0.47;0.88]
Primary care + Hospital care <i>versus</i> Primary care	The prescription of antibiotics	0.76 [0.39;1.49]

Conclusion

- A list of family physicians' outcomes and varying definitions formulated for the scope of practice was obtained.
- Literature seems to support the broad scope of practice among family physicians.
- However, the small numbers of studies focusing on the association type as well as the exploratory design used in most do not allow establishing a causal link between the scope of practice and the family physicians' outcomes.