

# INPLASY PROTOCOL

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**Support:** Does not apply.

**Review Stage at time of this submission:** Data analysis.

## Conflicts of interest:

None declared.

## A scoping study of the emerging definition of 'long COVID-19': implications for future research and clinical practice

De las salas, R<sup>1</sup>; De la Asunción-Torres, M<sup>2</sup>; Villarreal-Cantillo, E<sup>3</sup>.

**Review question / Objective:** To identify what definitions have been published for the term 'long COVID', and determine whether a unifying definition could be reached.

**Rationale:** Clinically the definition of long COVID will have implications for guiding best practice and communication between health care professionals. Establishing a review about a long COVID definition is critical as multiple COVID-19 studies are currently underway internationally, the interventions and outcomes are being defined differently, making it difficult to synthesize the emerging evidence.

**INPLASY registration number:** This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 29 September 2022 and was last updated on 29 September 2022 (registration number INPLASY202290122).

## INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective:** To identify what definitions have been published for the term 'long COVID', and determine whether a unifying definition could be reached.

**Background:** Long COVID or Post-COVID19 syndrome, prolonged COVID-19, are concepts classified as the set of signs and symptoms that persist after an acute episode of COVID-19 disease.

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**Rationale:** Clinically the definition of long COVID will have implications for guiding best practice and communication between health care professionals. Establishing a review about a long COVID definition is critical as multiple COVID-19 studies are currently underway internationally, the interventions and outcomes are being defined differently, making it difficult to synthesize the emerging evidence.

## METHODS

**Strategy of data synthesis:** The search was carried out in the databases: Medline via PubMed, Embase, Scielo and The Cochrane Library. The following descriptors, terms and keywords were combined for the search strategy: Adult, post-acute COVID-19 syndrome, COVID-19 post-intensive care syndrome, Patient Outcome Assessment, Symptom Assessment. The search syntax were adapted for each chosen database to fit the requirements.

**Eligibility criteria:** Criteria for exclusion and inclusion were not based on quality of studies, but on relevance (e.g. studies that showed evidence regarding concepts and definitions related to long COVID-19). Considering the possibility of reference for definition we included all the articles that incorporate a long COVID-19 definition.

**Source of evidence screening and selection:** Sources of evidence included any existing literature related with the definition of long-COVID-19. The scoping review considered the solving disagreements process between reviewers using a third peer.

**Data management:** Descriptive analysis was conducted extracting the following data: Country, Founding source, type of study, sample, study population, COVID-19 severity, Environment of care, Concept/Synonyms, definition (long COVID-19), Clinical Manifestations/symptoms (organ affected), reference for definition.

**Language restriction:** English, Spanish and Portuguese.

**Country(ies) involved:** Colombia.

**Keywords:** Adult; Long COVID-19; Post-COVID19 syndrome.

### Contributions of each author:

**Author 1 - Roxana De las Salas:** research proposal, analysis of results, discussion and writing of the manuscript.

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**Author 2 - Maira De la Asunción:** research design and execution, information tabulation.

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**Author 3 - Elizabeth Villarreal:** conception of the idea of investigation, direction, and execution of the investigation.

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