

# INPLASY

## A Scoping Review of Factors Associated with Self-Neglect among Community-Dwelling Older Adults

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### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Support** - Self funding.

**Review Stage at time of this submission** - Preliminary searches.

**Conflicts of interest** - None declared.

**INPLASY registration number:** INPLASY202640085

**Amendments** - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 24 April 2026 and was last updated on 24 April 2026.

### INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective** Review question

What multidimensional factors influence self-neglect among community-dwelling older adults?

**Objective :**

To synthesize and classify multidimensional factors influencing self-neglect among community-dwelling older adults, and to develop a structured overview of these factors across domains.

**Condition being studied** Self-neglect is a complex geriatric syndrome referring to the inability or unwillingness of an older adult to perform essential self-care tasks, which threatens their own health and safety. Among community-dwelling older adults, it encompasses deficits in personal hygiene, medical adherence, nutrition, and environmental maintenance. It is a multifactorial condition linked to physical, psychological, and social vulnerabilities, and has been consistently associated with adverse

outcomes, including increased morbidity, hospitalization, and mortality.

### METHODS

**Participant or population** This review will include community-dwelling older adults, typically defined as individuals aged 60 years and above (or as defined by individual studies), who live independently in the community rather than in institutional settings such as nursing homes or long-term care facilities. Studies involving older adults experiencing or at risk of self-neglect will be considered. There will be no restrictions on gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

**Intervention** Not applicable. This scoping review focuses on identifying and mapping factors associated with self-neglect among community-dwelling older adults rather than evaluating specific interventions.

**Comparator** Not applicable. This scoping review does not involve comparison of interventions. The

focus is on identifying and mapping factors associated with self-neglect among community-dwelling older adults.

**Study designs to be included** This scoping review will include a broad range of study designs relevant to the research objective, including observational studies (e.g., cross-sectional, case-control, and cohort studies). Qualitative studies, mixed-methods studies, and relevant systematic reviews will also be considered if they provide evidence on factors associated with self-neglect among community-dwelling older adults. Editorials, commentaries, and conference abstracts without sufficient data will be excluded.

**Eligibility criteria** Studies will be included if they: (1) involve community-dwelling older adults aged  $\geq 60$  years (or as defined by the original study); (2) report factors associated with self-neglect; (3) are published in peer-reviewed journals; and (4) are published between March 2016 and March 2026. Studies will be excluded if they: (1) focus on institutionalized populations (e.g., nursing homes, hospitals); (2) do not report specific factors related to self-neglect; (3) are non-empirical publications (e.g., editorials, commentaries, protocols); (4) are conference abstracts without sufficient data; or (5) are not available in full text.

**Information sources** A comprehensive literature search will be conducted in the following electronic databases: PubMed/MEDLINE, Web of Science, Embase, CINAHL, PsycINFO, and Scopus. To capture relevant studies published in Chinese, two major Chinese databases will also be searched, including China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI) and Wanfang Data. In addition, the Cochrane Library will be searched for relevant reviews. Reference lists of included studies and relevant reviews will be manually screened to identify further eligible studies. Grey literature, conference proceedings, and trial registries will not be systematically searched. The search will cover studies published between March 2016 and March 2026.

**Main outcome(s)** The main outcome of this scoping review will be the identification and mapping of factors associated with self-neglect among community-dwelling older adults. Extracted outcomes will include all reported factors that are statistically or qualitatively associated with self-neglect. These factors will be categorized into key domains, including: (1) demographic characteristics (e.g., age, gender, education); (2) physical health-related factors (e.g., chronic conditions, functional impairment); (3)

psychological factors (e.g., depression, cognitive impairment); (4) social factors (e.g., social support, isolation, family cohesion); and (5) environmental factors (e.g., living conditions, housing safety). Where available, the direction (risk or protective) and strength of associations will be summarized descriptively. Additionally, definitions and measurement approaches of self-neglect used across studies will be briefly described to provide contextual understanding.

**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis** No formal risk of bias assessment will be performed, consistent with the methodological guidance for scoping reviews. However, methodological features of the included studies will be summarized descriptively to inform the interpretation of the evidence base.

**Strategy of data synthesis** The data will be synthesized using a descriptive and narrative approach. Extracted data will be systematically organized and mapped to identify factors associated with self-neglect among community-dwelling older adults. Identified factors will be categorized into predefined domains, including demographic, physical health, psychological, social, and environmental factors. A thematic analysis approach will be used to group similar factors and summarize patterns across studies. Where applicable, the direction (risk or protective) and strength of associations will be described. The characteristics of included studies (e.g., study design, sample size, country) will be summarized using descriptive statistics. Due to the anticipated heterogeneity in study designs, populations, and measurement approaches, no meta-analysis will be conducted. Findings will be presented in both tabular and narrative formats.

**Subgroup analysis** No formal subgroup analysis is planned.

**Sensitivity analysis** Not applicable. Given the descriptive nature of this scoping review and the absence of quantitative synthesis, sensitivity analysis is not planned.

**Country(ies) involved** Malaysia (University of Malaya).

**Keywords** Self-neglect; Older adults; Community-dwelling; Risk factors; Determinants; Aging; Social support; Mental health; Scoping review.

#### **Contributions of each author**

Author 1 - Manyu Jiang - Conceptualization; Methodology; Literature search; Study selection;

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