

# Global Evidence on the Rapid Adoption of Telemedicine in Primary Care During the First Year of the COVID-19 Pandemic: a Scoping Review Protocol

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<https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-302879/v1>

## Objective:

What is the evidence available surrounding the rapid adoption of telemedicine in primary care settings world-wide during the COVID-19 pandemic?

## Questions:

1. Understand the drivers behind the rapid adoption of telemedicine since the official declaration of Covid-19 as a pandemic in March 2020;
2. Determine variations in the evidence related to telemedicine adoption across countries;
3. Map the findings in the context of the NASSS\* framework to identify gaps in evidence.

\* Greenhalgh T, Wherton J, Papoutsis C, Lynch J, Hughes G, A'Court C, Hinder S, Fahy N, Procter R, Shaw S. Beyond Adoption: A New Framework for Theorizing and Evaluating Nonadoption, Abandonment, and Challenges to the Scale-Up, Spread, and Sustainability of Health and Care Technologies. J Med Internet Res. 2017 Nov 1;19(11):e367. doi: 10.2196/jmir.8775. PMID: 29092808; PMCID: PMC5688245.

## Design

### Population

- All population groups
- No exclusions

### Concept

- Teleconsultations in Primary Care
- Other settings

### Context

- March 2020 - March 2021
- Pre March 2020/Post March 2021

## Methods

Scoping review based on the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) methodology.

## Theoretical Frameworks – NASSS\*

Non-adoption, Abandonment, and challenges to Scale-up, Spread and Sustainability (NASSS) framework

Illness

Value proposition

Organisations

Technology

Adopter System

Wider System



Embedding and adapting over time



## Why is this important?

- Limited use of telemedicine before the pandemic, but rapid overnight, sustained change in the past year
- WHO recommendation to support safety as 'virtual PPE'
- In the UK, policy coincided with 'total triage' policy, recently changed to provide choice of consultations.
- Debate on equality of outcomes and access

## Innovations

- Unique Primary Care/ Global Health Focus
- Use of grey literature extracts from major languages
- Use of Rayyan as screening tool

## Progress/next steps

- Protocol published in Pre-print, pending editor allocation
- Searches complete
- Screening complete (160+ studies from various countries)
- **Analysis ongoing**