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## RESEARCH AREA: EPIDEMIOLOGY

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**TITLE:** Systematic rapid living review on rehabilitation needs due to Covid-19 with monthly updates

**Principal investigator:** Prof.ssa Maria Gabriella Ceravolo; [m.g.ceravolo@staff.univpm.it](mailto:m.g.ceravolo@staff.univpm.it); Tel: +39 071 5964526

**UNIVPM Research Group:** Neuroriabilitazione (dr.ssa Elisa Andrenelli)

**Research activity description:** The recent outbreak of Covid-19 epidemics has challenged the provision of health care worldwide highlighting the main flaws of some national health systems with respect to their capacity to cope with the needs of the frailest subjects and of people with disability.

A growing number of epidemiologic reports show that the greatest mortality and morbidity risks concern frail and vulnerable people, in particular the elderly, subjects who suffer from multiple comorbidities or chronic diseases. Both the direct effects of Covid-19 infection and the indirect consequences of health policies impose a heavy burden on the population subgroups with the greatest health needs, like people with disability or at risk for experiencing disability due to chronic conditions. Several International bodies have already claimed for health policies focusing not only on the acute management of Covid-19 disease, though also on prevention, interventions and care in chronically ill patients staying at home or in health care facilities, as well as in patients suffering recent functional limitation requiring rehabilitation (or admitted to rehabilitation facilities). There is the need for rehabilitation professionals to reorganize hospital and outpatient activities to face the following challenges:

- ensure early rehabilitation to people hospitalized for Covid-19 infection, in the recovery phase after severe respiratory failure or prolonged hospital stay;
  - provide inpatient/outpatient/home rehabilitation to people experiencing functional decline after Covid-19 infection due to (mainly) neurological sequelae;
  - organize safe rehabilitation environment for people with emerging disability due to any other injury or illness than Covid-19 infection;
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- ensure appropriate functional monitoring and long-term care to people with chronic/progressive disability restricted at home;
- provide rehabilitation professionals with protective tools and safe work environment.

To achieve these goals, policy makers and rehabilitation community need to combine their efforts in developing evidence-based strategies. Rapid systematic reviews are a specific type of systematic reviews whose aim is to provide the knowledge synthesis in a timely manner, using a simplified process and/or omitting some information.<sup>5</sup> Living systematic reviews are recently emerging as a type of systematic reviews updated regularly and frequently, normally once a month.<sup>6</sup> The current Covid-19 emergency is the typical situation in which to apply these methodologies combined together.


Together with researchers from Cochrane Rehabilitation group, Maria Gabriella Ceravolo is coordinating an editorial initiative aimed to provide the most updated news to the rehabilitation community worldwide, by offering a series of rapid “living” reviews of the latest scientific literature on rehabilitation needs in the Covid-19 era.

This first rapid “living” reviews have already been published, in April, May and June 2020

**Link:** <https://rehabilitation.cochrane.org/>

### Collaborators:

Cochrane Rehabilitation



Question	Field	Cardiological	Dysphagia	Genetic	Musculoskeletal	Neurological	Respiratory
		Prevalence and characteristics					
Rehabilitation approaches			.	●	.		●
Organization of rehabilitation services		●		●		.	.
Impact on outcomes of rehabilitative practice		.	.	●	.	●	●
Late complications of rehabilitative interest						.	

### Systematic Reviews Links



Systematic rapid living review on rehabilitation needs due to covid-19: update to 31 March 2020



Systematic rapid living review on rehabilitation needs due to Covid-19: update to 30 April 2020