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Consequences of health condition labelling: protocol for a systematic scoping review

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8 **Consequences of health condition labelling: protocol for a systematic scoping review**
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Word Count: 1908

ABSTRACT

Introduction. When health conditions are labelled it is often to classify and communicate a set of symptoms. While diagnostic labelling can provide explanation for an individual's symptoms, it can also impact how individuals and others view those symptoms. Despite existing research regarding the effects of labelling health conditions, a synthesis of these effects has not occurred. We will conduct a systematic scoping review to synthesise the reported consequences and impact of being given a label for a health condition from an individual, societal and health practitioner perspective and explore in what context labelling of health conditions is considered important.

Methods and analysis. The review will adhere to the Joanna Briggs Methodology for Scoping Reviews. Searches will be conducted in five electronic databases (PubMed, Embase, PsychINFO, Cochrane, CINAHL). Reference lists of included studies will be screened and forward and backward citation searching of included articles will be conducted. We will include reviews and original studies which describe the consequences for individuals labelled with a non-cancer health condition. We will exclude hypothetical research designs and studies focussed on the consequences of labelling cancer conditions, intellectual disabilities, and/or social attributes. We will conduct thematic analyses for qualitative data and descriptive or meta-analyses for quantitative data where appropriate.

Ethics and Dissemination. Ethical approval is not required for a scoping review. Results will be disseminated via publication in a peer-reviewed journal, conference presentations, and lay-person summaries on various online platforms. Findings from this systematic scoping review will identify gaps in current understanding of how, when, why, and for whom a diagnostic label is important and inform future research.

Strengths and limitations of this study

- Synthesis of the consequences of labelling of health conditions individual, practitioner and societal perspectives.
- Provision of real-world perspective of the true consequences of diagnostic labels.
- A broad, systematic search strategy, informed by preliminary public sampling, will be conducted in 5 electronic databases.
- Robust methodology will be used to identify articles for inclusion in this review (i.e. two authors will screen titles, extract data and assess methodological quality for each included article).
- Results of this review will enable the identification of gaps in current understanding of how, when, why, and for whom a diagnostic label is important and inform future research.

INTRODUCTION

The diagnosis of physical and psychological health conditions is increasing in prevalence.¹⁻⁵ Diagnoses often occur in the context of individuals seeking to identify and treat symptoms. However, diagnoses can also occur as a result of screening tests where individuals have no discernible signs or symptoms of disease (such as when a routine test determines an individual has hypertension),⁶ from unanticipated findings in investigations for other health concerns (such as identifying an anomaly in a person's thyroid when conducting an MRI of the spine),⁷ or, when people are newly diagnosed with a health condition because of changes to diagnostic thresholds or cut-offs for the condition opposed to changes in individual circumstances (such as for gestational diabetes).¹ The value of a diagnosis, particularly in these latter contexts, is not always evident and the risk of over- and mis-diagnosis is significant.^{1 8 9}

Diagnostic labels provide healthcare professionals with a framework from which to organise and interpret clinical symptom presentations, support clinical decision making through directing treatment decisions, and provide information on possible condition course and overall prognosis.^{10 11} Further, diagnostic labels allow clinicians to assume homogeneity amongst members of patient groups, in addition to providing an efficient method for health professionals to communicate.¹²

Despite well-meaning intentions, application of diagnostic labels in real-world practice can be problematic. Diagnostic criteria can often be ambiguous. For example, symptoms of anxiety, such as restlessness, fatigue, or difficulty concentrating, may be explained by diagnoses of anxiety, depressive, or bipolar and related disorders.^{13 14} Similarly, chest pain symptoms may be explained by several alternative diagnostic categories such as inflammatory diseases, musculoskeletal conditions, or coronary diseases.^{15 16} Lastly, non-

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3 specific low back pain is the leading cause of disability worldwide, yet for the majority of
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5 people no pathoanatomical cause can be identified.¹⁷
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8 From the perspective of a patient, a diagnostic label can have a significant impact
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10 (negative and positive) on their health outcomes, psychological wellbeing, and behaviour,
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12 and can influence how they are viewed and managed by healthcare professionals and are
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14 perceived by other members in society (e.g. school, workplace).^{3 5 18} In a cohort of over
15
16 33,000 adults', individuals who were aware that they had hypertension reported elevated
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18 levels of psychological distress compared to those individuals who had hypertension,
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20 however, were unaware of this.³ A study investigating the impact of labelling borderline
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22 personality disorder on clinician interpretation of patient symptoms found clinician's prior
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24 awareness of a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder, compared to no awareness,
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26 resulted in a tendency to frame observations of the individual in terms of the label, and a
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28 failure to observe positive behaviours.¹²
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33 Conversely, a diagnostic label may have positive effects on the individual. These
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35 include timely referral to necessary healthcare which, in turn, can reduce morbidity and
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37 mortality, improve predictions regarding condition progression as well as facilitate access to
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39 support, services and resources (for example diagnosis based school funding^{19 20} and social
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41 support⁵) and provide an explanation and validation of an individuals' signs and symptoms.
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43 A recent study exploring the impact of chronic fatigue syndrome using hypothetical scenarios
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45 of a close friend's diagnosis, reported a label of chronic fatigue, compared with no label,
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47 elicited higher sympathetic responses from participants, greater potential social support, and
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49 greater support for active treatment.⁵
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54 The terms used to describe a diagnostic label have been found to influence an
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56 individuals' behaviour, psychological well-being and treatment preferences. Specifically, a
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58 diagnostic label that uses medicalised and precise terminology compared with a description
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3 of symptoms, has been found to result in higher patient anxiety, greater perceived severity of
4 the condition and a patient preference of more invasive treatments.^{18 21-23} This has been
5 evidenced in conditions including gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, polycystic ovary
6 syndrome, bone fracture, and low back pain.^{18 21-23} Similarly, research suggests that patients
7 diagnosed with diabetes demonstrate a propensity to medical interventions, including insulin
8 use, oral medication taking, and blood glucose monitoring, compared to less invasive
9 interventions, such as changes to diet and exercise practices.²⁴ The use of a medicalised label
10 over a descriptive label for a health condition is also suggested to result in increased
11 confidence in the medical professional and greater adoption of sick role behaviour.²⁵
12 Alternatively, use of descriptive labels for health conditions was found to be associated with
13 greater patient ownership of the condition.²⁵

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To date, our understanding of the consequences and impacts of a diagnostic label has been limited to a single perspective (e.g. patient, health care practitioner), single condition (e.g. gastro-oesophageal reflux disease), or restricted to a specific study design (e.g. hypothetical research design) and a comprehensive synthesis of this information across health conditions is lacking.^{26 27} Further, exploring the real world impact of a diagnostic label including benefits and harms has received little attention.^{22 28 29} Therefore, the aims of this systematic scoping review are to systematically review original and synthesised research exploring the consequences of being given a label for a health condition to:

1. Identify the range of potential consequences of labelling of health conditions from an individual, societal, and health practitioner viewpoint;
2. Explore why, for whom, and in what contexts labelling of health conditions is, or is not, influential; and,
3. Evaluate the methods used to study the impact of labelling health conditions.

METHODS AND ANALYSIS

Scoping reviews are suggested as an alternative to systematic reviews, allowing for a broader examination and synthesis of existing research and identification of research gaps.³⁰ The proposed systematic scoping review will adhere to the Joanna Briggs Methodology for Scoping Reviews,³¹ and adhere to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR).³² This approach was selected to allow sufficient documentation of the review process.

Consumer involvement in scoping review design and framework development

A convenience sampling survey was conducted to explore the public's opinion of the consequences of diagnostic label for health conditions. In April 2019, we posted the questions “What are the labelling consequences of being given a health diagnosis? We’re working up a list and so far we have: anxiety, relief, more tests, stigma, medico-legal problems. What else?” on two social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter. Responses on Facebook included 14 comments from six individuals, while Twitter responses resulted in 45 comments from 40 individuals. The results of this survey were used to inform the development of the search strategy, inclusion and exclusion criteria, data extraction form, and an initial qualitative framework (Table 1) that will be used in this scoping review.

Table 1. Coding Framework of Social Media Responses.

Name	Description	Examples
Psychological Impact	Psychological impact of diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased self-understanding - Stigma (internalised stigma (self); perceived stigma from others) - Increased psychological distress (anxiety, depression, phobia, worry, fear, stress)

1	Support	Support gained or loss as a result of diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support groups: Increased support of others with similar diagnosis; network with other patients - Others less respectful, more withdrawn and judgemental
2	Development	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in health literacy due to motivation to find about treatment options
3		Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to plan – even if there may not be treatment, provides opportunity to get affairs in order (e.g. wills).
4	Lifestyle	Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change diet - Change lifestyle
5		Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More Sick days; Time off work; absenteeism
6		Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnosis provides access to funds (e.g. Medicare, NDIS, insurance)
7	Service Use	Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seeking more investigations - Scans and imaging - Encourages screening of other family members at low-risk of the condition
8		Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear Treatment path; clearer treatment protocols - Side-effects (of medication sexual, agitation, suicidality, emotional numbing)
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Inclusion criteria

Peer reviewed publications including, systematic or literature reviews and original studies which describe the perceived consequences for individuals labelled with a non-cancer health condition will be included. Perceived consequences can be reported from the perspectives of the individuals, their family, friends, and/or carers, or health professionals. As we expect individuals labelled as having a cancer condition will have different experiences to those labelled with general health conditions, studies that focus on these samples are excluded. Similarly, studies that report the consequence of labels for people using hypothetical case scenarios, or individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or social attributes such as race, sexual identity or orientation will also be excluded (see Table 2 for more details).

Table 2. Inclusion Criteria

Aspect	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Types of studies	Original Studies (Cohort, Case-Controlled, Cross-Sectional, Observational, RCT, Focus Groups)* Synthesised Studies (Systematic Reviews) <i>*Studies utilising qualitative methodologies do not require multiple group comparisons for inclusion.</i>	Protocols (final study to be sourced) Opinion pieces and commentaries Quantitative Cohort, Case-Controlled, and Cross-Sectional studies without comparator Hypothetical or vignette based studies

Participants	Individuals, no age limit (e.g. adults, children, family, carers, health professionals, general public)	Animal subjects
Condition	<p>Screening and/or labelling of physical or psychological health condition/s</p> <p>Self-reported (e.g. response to questions such as “has your GP ever told you that you have hypertension?”)</p> <p>Health condition confirmed (e.g. medical examination and testing completed as part of the study)</p>	<p>Labelling of intellectual impairment, race, ethnicity, sexual identity or sexual orientation</p> <p>Labelling of cancers and cancer related conditions</p> <p>Self-reported conditions provided by unqualified professional (e.g. physiotherapist telling patient they have hypertension)</p> <p>Self-identified conditions (e.g. googling of symptoms, no confirmation by medical professional)</p>
Outcomes	<p>Consequences, impact, effects of the health condition label or diagnosis</p> <p>Perceived harms and/or benefits (e.g. illness burden)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lived experience - Psychological impact (e.g. anxiety, quality of life) - Behaviour change (e.g. participation in employment) 	<p>Effect of the health condition (e.g. disease mechanisms/traits)</p> <p>Gene labelling</p> <p>Food or nutrition labelling</p> <p>Drug effects/effectiveness</p> <p>Intervention effects/effectiveness (e.g. intervention A vs intervention B)</p>

	- Support (e.g. financial, social support)	
Language	No language limitations	-
Date	No date limitations	-

Search strategy

A structured search, developed in collaboration with an information specialist, of five electronic databases (PubMed, Embase, PsychINFO, Cochrane, CINAHL) will be conducted to identify relevant publications. Databases will be searched from their inception. Reference lists of included articles will be searched and forward citation searching of included articles will be conducted. The full search strategy to be used is reported in the Supplementary Material.

Study selection

Titles and abstracts of 10% of articles retrieved through electronic and manual searches will be independently screened by two reviewers (RS and LK) for eligibility against the pre-specified inclusion criteria. Disagreements will be resolved through discussion and consultation with additional reviewers as required. When interrater reliability of 0.9 or above is achieved for the screened studies, remaining studies will continue to be screened by one reviewer (RS). Articles identified as unclear for inclusion will be reviewed by an additional reviewer as required.

Data extraction

Full text publications will be obtained for any potentially relevant studies and will be screened for inclusion against the same inclusion criteria by one reviewer (RS). Additional

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3 uncertainties regarding eligibility for inclusion will be resolved through discussion with two
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5 other reviewers (RT and PG). Two reviewers (RS and ZAM) will independently extract
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7 study meta-data and quantitative data from 10% of included studies using a standardised data
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9 extraction form in Microsoft Excel that will be piloted prior to full-text data extraction.
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13 These same reviewers will also extract qualitative data from 10% of studies using
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15 NVivo version 12. Conflicts will be resolved by a third party as required. When interrater
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17 reliability of 0.9 or above is achieved for extracted data, one reviewer (RS) will continue to
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19 extract data for the remaining included studies. Queries will be resolved through discussion
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21 with a second reviewer (ZAM). Extracted data will include study characteristics (author,
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23 journal, year of publication, study country and setting), participant characteristics (number of
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25 participants, age, health condition), and outcomes (consequences, impact, effects of the
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27 diagnostic label). For studies with quantitative measures, extracted data will include, but is
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29 not limited to, validated and unvalidated measures (for example, Short Form Health Survey
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31 (SF-36)³³, or General Health Questionnaire (GHQ)³⁴). For qualitative studies, we will extract
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33 reported themes and supporting quotes provided.
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40 **Study quality**

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42 Study quality will be assessed using appraisal tools appropriate for the designs
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44 identified, for example, the McGill Mixed Methods Critical Appraisal Tool (MMAT)³⁵ will
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46 be used for original studies and Assessing the Methodological Quality of Systematic
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48 Reviews, version 2 (AMSTAR-2)³⁶ will be used for systematic reviews. The former critical
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50 appraisal tool has been developed for evaluating original studies utilising qualitative,
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52 quantitative, or mixed methodologies, while the latter tool was developed for appraising the
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54 quality of systematic reviews which include randomised or non-randomised studies. Quality
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56 assessment will be conducted independently by two authors (RS and ZAM) for 10% of the
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3 included studies. Conflicts will be resolved through discussion or by a third reviewer, as
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5 necessary.
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10 **PRESENTATION OF RESULTS**

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12 We will present study selection in a flow diagram according to PRISMA-Scr and
13 included studies will be described in a table of characteristics.³² Results will be aggregated as
14 appropriate. Results pertinent to the consequences of labelling of health conditions will be
15 collated to expand those provided in Table 1, with empirical data regarding rate and severity
16 of these consequences also examined. Additionally, a compendium of methods used to elicit
17 consequences of health condition labelling will be developed and methodology appraised.
18 For quantitative studies, extracted data will be tabulated in a descriptive and/or statistical
19 manner depending on the availability of data (i.e. number of studies reporting similar
20 outcome measures or measurement of similar constructs, such as quality of life or symptoms
21 of anxiety) and degree of heterogeneity between studies (e.g. population, clinical conditions).
22 Should data not support a meta-analysis, results from studies which provide quantitative data
23 will be reported in a narrative synthesis and interpreted alongside results from qualitative
24 studies. Qualitative data will be analysed using developed frameworks (see Table 1), and
25 following established protocols for the qualitative analysis of information in the social
26 sciences.³⁷ The characteristics and results of all included studies will be reported in tables
27 and summarised in text.
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51 **Ethics and Dissemination**

52 As the current study is a systematic scoping review protocol, ethics is not required.
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54 Dissemination of results will be made public via peer-reviewed publications, conference
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3 presentations and lay-person summaries on various on-line platforms (e.g. The
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5 Conversation).
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For peer review only

REQUIRED STATEMENTS

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For peer review only

Supplementary Material
Search Strategies

PubMed

(Health[tiab] OR Illness[tiab] OR Disorder[tiab] OR Condition[tiab] OR Disease[tiab])

AND

((Psychological[ti] OR Label[tiab] OR Labelling[tiab] OR Labeling[tiab]) AND
(Diagnosis[tiab] OR Diagnostic[tiab] OR Screening[Mesh] OR Screening[tiab] OR
Screened[tiab]))

AND

(Patient[tiab] OR Patients[tiab] OR Individuals[tiab] OR Self[tiab] OR Parent[tiab] OR
Family[tiab] OR Adult[tiab] OR Men[tiab] OR Women[tiab])

AND

(Attitude[Mesh] OR Awareness[tiab] OR Stigma[tiab] OR Beliefs[tiab] OR Well-being[tiab]
OR Wellbeing[tiab] OR Meaning[tiab] OR Impact[tiab] OR Effect[tiab] OR Effects[tiab] OR
Influence[tiab] OR Experience[tiab])

AND

("Systematic review"[tiab] OR "Systematic Review"[pt] OR "Cochrane Database Syst
Rev"[ta] OR "meta analysis"[pt] OR "meta analysis"[tiab] OR ((Search[tiab] OR
Searched[tiab] OR Searches[tiab]) AND (PubMed[tiab] OR Medline[tiab] OR Database[tiab]
OR Databases[tiab])) OR "randomized controlled trial"[pt] OR "controlled clinical trial"[pt]
OR randomized[tiab] OR randomised[tiab] OR placebo[tiab] OR randomly[tiab] OR
trial[tiab] OR groups[tiab] OR "Epidemiologic Studies"[Mesh] OR "case-control
studies"[Mesh] OR "Cohort Studies"[Mesh] OR "case control"[tiab] OR Cohort[tiab] OR
"Follow up"[tiab] OR Observational[tiab] OR Longitudinal[tiab] OR Prospective[tiab] OR
retrospective[tiab] OR "cross sectional"[tiab] OR "Cross-Sectional Studies"[Mesh] OR
Investigated[tiab] OR Analysis[tiab] OR Statistics[tiab] OR Data[tiab] OR "statistics and
numerical data"[sh] OR "epidemiology"[sh])

NOT

(Animals[Mesh] NOT (Animals[Mesh] AND Humans[Mesh]))

NOT

(Injections[Mesh] OR Open-Label[tiab] OR "Product Labeling"[Mesh] OR "Drug
Labeling"[Mesh] OR "Affinity Labels"[Mesh] OR "Food Labeling"[Mesh] OR "Isotope
Labeling"[Mesh] OR "Staining and Labeling"[Mesh] OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling"[Mesh]
OR "Primed In Situ Labeling"[Mesh] OR Rat[ti] OR Rats[ti] OR Mice[ti] OR Mouse[ti] OR
Placebo[ti] OR "Drug effects"[sh] OR Drug[ti] OR Drugs[ti] OR "Food and Drug
Administration"[ti] OR "Food labeling"[ti] OR "Calorie labeling"[ti] OR Injection[ti] OR
Cigarette[ti])

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4 (((Health:ti,ab OR Illness:ti,ab OR Disorder:ti,ab OR Condition:ti,ab OR Disease:ti,ab)))
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6 AND
7 (((Psychological:ti OR Label:ti,ab OR Labelling:ti,ab OR Labeling:ti,ab) AND
8 (Diagnosis:ti,ab OR Diagnostic:ti,ab OR Screening:ti,ab OR Screening:ti,ab OR
9 Screened:ti,ab))))
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11 AND
12 (((Patient:ti,ab OR Patients:ti,ab OR Individuals:ti,ab OR Self:ti,ab OR Parent:ti,ab OR
13 Family:ti,ab OR Adult:ti,ab OR Men:ti,ab OR Women:ti,ab)))
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15 AND
16 (((Attitude:ti,ab OR Awareness:ti,ab OR Stigma:ti,ab OR Beliefs:ti,ab OR Well-being:ti,ab
17 OR Wellbeing:ti,ab OR Meaning:ti,ab OR Impact:ti,ab OR Effect:ti,ab OR Effects:ti,ab OR
18 Influence:ti,ab OR Experience:ti,ab)))
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23 Rev.jn" OR "meta analysis":it OR "meta analysis":ti,ab OR ((Search:ti,ab OR Searched:ti,ab
24 OR Searches:ti,ab) AND (PubMed:ti,ab OR Medline:ti,ab OR Database:ti,ab OR
25 Databases:ti,ab)) OR "randomized controlled trial":it OR "controlled clinical trial":it OR
26 randomized:ti,ab OR randomised:ti,ab OR placebo:ti,ab OR randomly:ti,ab OR trial:ti,ab OR
27 groups:ti,ab OR "Epidemiologic Studies" OR "case-control studies" OR "Cohort Studies" OR
28 "case control":ti,ab OR Cohort:ti,ab OR "Follow up":ti,ab OR Observational:ti,ab OR
29 Longitudinal:ti,ab OR Prospective:ti,ab OR retrospective:ti,ab OR "cross sectional":ti,ab OR
30 "Cross-Sectional Studies" OR Investigated:ti,ab OR Analysis:ti,ab OR Statistics:ti,ab OR
31 Data:ti,ab OR epidemiology:ti,ab)))
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37 Therapy" OR "Affinity Labels" OR "Food Labeling" OR "Isotope Labeling" OR "Staining
38 and Labeling" OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling" OR "Primed In Situ Labeling" OR Rat:ti OR
39 Rats:ti OR Mice:ti OR Mouse:ti OR Placebo:ti OR "Drug effects.hw" OR Drug:ti OR
40 Drugs:ti OR "Off Label":ti,ab OR Food AND "Drug Administration":ti OR "Food
41 labeling":ti OR "Calorie labeling":ti OR Injection:ti OR Cigarette:ti)))
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PsychINFO

((Health.ti,ab OR Illness.ti,ab OR Disorder.ti,ab OR Condition.ti,ab OR Disease.ti,ab))

AND

((Psychological.ti OR Label.ti,ab OR Labelling.ti,ab OR Labeling.ti,ab) AND

(Diagnosis.ti,ab OR Diagnostic.ti,ab OR Screening.ti,ab OR Screening.ti,ab OR

Screened.ti,ab)))

AND

((Patient.ti,ab OR Patients.ti,ab OR Individuals.ti,ab OR Self.ti,ab OR Parent.ti,ab OR

Family.ti,ab OR Adult.ti,ab OR Men.ti,ab OR Women.ti,ab))

AND

((Attitude.ti,ab OR Awareness.ti,ab OR Stigma.ti,ab OR Beliefs.ti,ab OR Well-being.ti,ab

OR Wellbeing.ti,ab OR Meaning.ti,ab OR Impact.ti,ab OR Effect.ti,ab OR Effects.ti,ab OR

Influence.ti,ab OR Experience.ti,ab))

AND

((Systematic review.ti,ab OR Systematic Review.pt OR Cochrane Database Syst Rev.jn OR

meta analysis.pt OR meta analysis.ti,ab OR ((Search.ti,ab OR Searched.ti,ab OR

Searches.ti,ab) AND (PubMed.ti,ab OR Medline.ti,ab OR Database.ti,ab OR

Databases.ti,ab)) OR randomized controlled trial.pt OR controlled clinical trial.pt OR

randomized.ti,ab OR randomised.ti,ab OR placebo.ti,ab OR randomly.ti,ab OR trial.ti,ab OR

groups.ti,ab OR "Epidemiologic Studies" OR "case-control studies" OR "Cohort Studies" OR

case control.ti,ab OR Cohort.ti,ab OR Follow up.ti,ab OR Observational.ti,ab OR

Longitudinal.ti,ab OR Prospective.ti,ab OR retrospective.ti,ab OR cross sectional.ti,ab OR

"Cross-Sectional Studies" OR Investigated.ti,ab OR Analysis.ti,ab OR Statistics.ti,ab OR

Data.ti,ab OR epidemiology.ti,ab))

NOT

((Injections OR Open-Label.ti,ab OR "Product Labeling" OR "Drug Labeling" OR "Drug

Therapy" OR "Affinity Labels" OR "Food Labeling" OR "Isotope Labeling" OR "Staining

and Labeling" OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling" OR "Primed In Situ Labeling" OR Rat.ti OR

Rats.ti OR Mice.ti OR Mouse.ti OR Placebo.ti OR Drug effects.hw OR Drug.ti OR Drugs.ti

OR Off Label.ti,ab OR Food and Drug Administration.ti OR Food labeling.ti OR Calorie

labeling.ti OR Injection.ti OR Cigarette.ti))

Only

Cochrane

(((Health:ti,ab OR Illness:ti,ab OR Disorder:ti,ab OR Condition:ti,ab OR Disease:ti,ab)))

AND

(((Psychological:ti OR Label:ti,ab OR Labelling:ti,ab OR Labeling:ti,ab) AND

(Diagnosis:ti,ab OR Diagnostic:ti,ab OR Screening:ti,ab OR Screening:ti,ab OR

Screened:ti,ab))))

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(((Patient:ti,ab OR Patients:ti,ab OR Individuals:ti,ab OR Self:ti,ab OR Parent:ti,ab OR

Family:ti,ab OR Adult:ti,ab OR Men:ti,ab OR Women:ti,ab)))

AND

(((Attitude:ti,ab OR Awareness:ti,ab OR Stigma:ti,ab OR Beliefs:ti,ab OR Well-being:ti,ab

OR Wellbeing:ti,ab OR Meaning:ti,ab OR Impact:ti,ab OR Effect:ti,ab OR Effects:ti,ab OR

Influence:ti,ab OR Experience:ti,ab)))

AND

((("Systematic review":ti,ab OR "Systematic Review":pt OR "Cochrane Database Syst

Rev.jn" OR "meta analysis":pt OR "meta analysis":ti,ab OR ((Search:ti,ab OR Searched:ti,ab

OR Searches:ti,ab) AND (PubMed:ti,ab OR Medline:ti,ab OR Database:ti,ab OR

Databases:ti,ab)) OR "randomized controlled trial":pt OR "controlled clinical trial":pt OR

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groups:ti,ab OR "Epidemiologic Studies" OR "case-control studies" OR "Cohort Studies" OR

"case control":ti,ab OR Cohort:ti,ab OR "Follow up":ti,ab OR Observational:ti,ab OR

Longitudinal:ti,ab OR Prospective:ti,ab OR retrospective:ti,ab OR "cross sectional":ti,ab OR

"Cross-Sectional Studies" OR Investigated:ti,ab OR Analysis:ti,ab OR Statistics:ti,ab OR

Data:ti,ab OR epidemiology:ti,ab)))

NOT

(((Injections OR Open-Label:ti,ab OR "Product Labeling" OR "Drug Labeling" OR "Drug

Therapy" OR "Affinity Labels" OR "Food Labeling" OR "Isotope Labeling" OR "Staining

and Labeling" OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling" OR "Primed In Situ Labeling" OR Rat:ti OR

Rats:ti OR Mice:ti OR Mouse:ti OR Placebo:ti OR "Drug effects.hw" OR Drug:ti OR

Drugs:ti OR "Off Label":ti,ab OR Food AND "Drug Administration":ti OR "Food

labeling":ti OR "Calorie labeling":ti OR Injection:ti OR Cigarette:ti)))

CINAHL

((((TI Health OR AB Health OR TI Illness OR AB Illness OR TI Disorder OR AB Disorder OR TI Condition OR AB Condition OR TI Disease OR AB Disease))))

AND

(((((TI Psychological OR TI Label OR AB Label OR TI Labelling OR AB Labelling OR TI Labeling OR AB Labeling) AND (TI Diagnosis OR AB Diagnosis OR TI Diagnostic OR AB Diagnostic OR TI Screening OR AB Screening OR TI Screening OR AB Screening OR TI Screened OR AB Screened))))))

AND

((((TI Patient OR AB Patient OR TI Patients OR AB Patients OR TI Individuals OR AB Individuals OR TI Self OR AB Self OR TI Parent OR AB Parent OR TI Family OR AB Family OR TI Adult OR AB Adult OR TI Men OR AB Men OR TI Women OR AB Women))))

AND

((((TI Attitude OR AB Attitude OR TI Awareness OR AB Awareness OR TI Stigma OR AB Stigma OR TI Beliefs OR AB Beliefs OR TI Well-being OR AB Well-being OR TI Wellbeing OR AB Wellbeing OR TI Meaning OR AB Meaning OR TI Impact OR AB Impact OR TI Effect OR AB Effect OR TI Effects OR AB Effects OR TI Influence OR AB Influence OR TI Experience OR AB Experience))))

AND

((((TI "Systematic review" OR AB "Systematic review" OR PT "Systematic Review" OR "Cochrane Database Syst Rev.jn" OR PT "meta analysis" OR TI "meta analysis" OR AB "meta analysis" OR ((TI Search OR AB Search OR TI Searched OR AB Searched OR TI Searches OR AB Searches) AND (TI PubMed OR AB PubMed OR TI Medline OR AB Medline OR TI Database OR AB Database OR TI Databases OR AB Databases)) OR PT "randomized controlled trial" OR PT "controlled clinical trial" OR TI randomized OR AB randomized OR TI randomised OR AB randomised OR TI placebo OR AB placebo OR TI randomly OR AB randomly OR TI trial OR AB trial OR TI groups OR AB groups OR "Epidemiologic Studies" OR "case-control studies" OR "Cohort Studies" OR TI "case control" OR AB "case control" OR TI Cohort OR AB Cohort OR TI "Follow up" OR AB "Follow up" OR TI Observational OR AB Observational OR TI Longitudinal OR AB Longitudinal OR TI Prospective OR AB Prospective OR TI retrospective OR AB retrospective OR TI "cross sectional" OR AB "cross sectional" OR "Cross-Sectional Studies" OR TI Investigated OR AB Investigated OR TI Analysis OR AB Analysis OR TI Statistics OR AB Statistics OR TI Data OR AB Data OR TI epidemiology OR AB epidemiology))))

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((((Injections OR TI Open-Label OR AB Open-Label OR "Product Labeling" OR "Drug Labeling" OR "Drug Therapy" OR "Affinity Labels" OR "Food Labeling" OR "Isotope Labeling" OR "Staining and Labeling" OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling" OR "Primed In Situ Labeling" OR TI Rat OR TI Rats OR TI Mice OR TI Mouse OR TI Placebo OR "Drug effects.hw" OR TI Drug OR TI Drugs OR TI "Off Label" OR AB "Off Label" OR Food AND TI "Drug Administration" OR TI "Food labeling" OR TI "Calorie labeling" OR TI Injection OR TI Cigarette))))

BMJ Open

Consequences of health condition labelling: protocol for a systematic scoping review

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Manuscript ID	bmjopen-2020-037392.R1
Article Type:	Protocol
Date Submitted by the Author:	15-Jun-2020
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Primary Subject Heading:	Public health
Secondary Subject Heading:	Public health
Keywords:	PUBLIC HEALTH, QUALITATIVE RESEARCH, Quality in health care < HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

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9 4 **Consequences of health condition labelling: protocol for a systematic scoping review**
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19 10 Rebecca Sims¹, Luise Kazda², Zoe A Michaleff¹, Paul Glasziou¹, Rae Thomas¹
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36 20 Corresponding author: Rae Thomas, Institute for Evidence-Based Healthcare (IEBH), Bond
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38 21 University, 14 University Drive, Robina QLD 4226. Email: rthomas@bond.edu.au
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43 24 **Keywords:** *labelling; diagnosis; consequences*
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ABSTRACT

Introduction. When health conditions are labelled it is often to classify and communicate a set of symptoms. While diagnostic labelling can provide explanation for an individual's symptoms, it can also impact how individuals and others view those symptoms. Despite existing research regarding the effects of labelling health conditions, a synthesis of these effects has not occurred. We will conduct a systematic scoping review to synthesise the reported consequences and impact of being given a label for a health condition from an individual, societal and health practitioner perspective and explore in what context labelling of health conditions is considered important.

Methods and analysis. The review will adhere to the Joanna Briggs Methodology for Scoping Reviews. Searches will be conducted in five electronic databases (PubMed, Embase, PsychINFO, Cochrane, CINAHL). Reference lists of included studies will be screened and forward and backward citation searching of included articles will be conducted. We will include reviews and original studies which describe the consequences for individuals labelled with a non-cancer health condition. We will exclude hypothetical research designs and studies focussed on the consequences of labelling cancer conditions, intellectual disabilities, and/or social attributes. We will conduct thematic analyses for qualitative data and descriptive or meta-analyses for quantitative data where appropriate.

Ethics and dissemination. Ethical approval is not required for a scoping review. Results will be disseminated via publication in a peer-reviewed journal, conference presentations, and lay-person summaries on various online platforms. Findings from this systematic scoping review will identify gaps in current understanding of how, when, why, and for whom a diagnostic label is important and inform future research.

1 **Strengths and limitations of this study**

- 2 - The findings of this scoping review will be informed by a broad, comprehensive
- 3 search strategy that will be conducted in 5 electronic databases.
- 4 - We will include both qualitative and quantitative studies which will enhance our
- 5 current understanding of the consequences of health condition labelling.
- 6 - Two reviewers will screen 10% of titles and abstracts, extract data and assess quality
- 7 of included studies.
- 8 - Eligibility will not be limited to specific health conditions, therefore, the
- 9 consequences identified will be generalisable to health condition labelling more
- 10 broadly.
- 11 - Articles will be limited to peer-reviewed publications and not include grey or theory-
- 12 based literature

INTRODUCTION

The diagnosis of physical and psychological health conditions is increasing in prevalence.¹⁻⁵ Diagnoses often occur in the context of individuals seeking to identify and treat symptoms. However, diagnoses can also occur as a result of screening tests where individuals have no discernible signs or symptoms of disease (such as when a routine test determines an individual has hypertension),⁶ from unanticipated findings in investigations for other health concerns (such as identifying an anomaly in a person's thyroid when conducting an MRI of the spine),⁷ or, when people are newly diagnosed with a health condition because of changes to diagnostic thresholds or cut-offs for the condition opposed to changes in individual circumstances (such as for gestational diabetes).¹ The value of a diagnosis, particularly in these latter contexts, is not always evident and the risk of over- and mis-diagnosis is significant.^{1 8 9}

Diagnostic labels provide healthcare professionals with a framework from which to organise and interpret clinical symptom presentations, support clinical decision making through directing treatment decisions, and provide information on possible condition course and overall prognosis.^{10 11} Further, diagnostic labels allow clinicians to assume homogeneity amongst members of patient groups, in addition to providing an efficient method for health professionals to communicate.¹²

Despite well-meaning intentions, application of diagnostic labels in real-world practice can be problematic. Diagnostic criteria can often be ambiguous. For example, symptoms of anxiety, such as restlessness, fatigue, or difficulty concentrating, may be explained by diagnoses of anxiety, depressive, or bipolar and related disorders.^{13 14} Similarly, chest pain symptoms may be explained by several alternative diagnostic categories such as inflammatory diseases, musculoskeletal conditions, or coronary diseases.^{15 16} Lastly, non-

1 specific low back pain is the leading cause of disability worldwide, yet for the majority of
2 people no pathoanatomical cause can be identified.¹⁷

3 From the perspective of a patient, a diagnostic label can have a significant impact
4 (negative and positive) on their health outcomes, psychological wellbeing, and behaviour,
5 and can influence how they are viewed and managed by healthcare professionals and are
6 perceived by other members in society (e.g. school, workplace).^{3 5 18} In a cohort of over
7 33,000 adults, individuals who were aware that they had hypertension reported elevated
8 levels of psychological distress compared to those individuals who had hypertension,
9 however, were unaware of this.³ A study investigating the impact of labelling borderline
10 personality disorder on clinician interpretation of patient symptoms found clinicians' prior
11 awareness of a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder, compared to no awareness,
12 resulted in a tendency to frame observations of the individual in terms of the label, and a
13 failure to observe positive behaviours.¹²

14 Conversely, a diagnostic label may have positive effects on the individual. These
15 include timely referral to necessary healthcare which, in turn, can reduce morbidity and
16 mortality, improve predictions regarding condition progression as well as facilitate access to
17 support, services and resources (for example, diagnosis based school funding^{19 20} and social
18 support⁵) and provide an explanation and validation of an individual's signs and symptoms.
19 A recent study exploring the impact of chronic fatigue syndrome using hypothetical scenarios
20 of a close friend's diagnosis reported a label of chronic fatigue, compared with no label,
21 elicited higher sympathetic responses from participants, greater potential social support, and
22 greater support for active treatment.⁵

23 The terms used to describe a diagnostic label have been found to influence an
24 individual's behaviour, psychological well-being and treatment preferences. Specifically, a
25 diagnostic label that uses medicalised and precise terminology compared with a description

1
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3 1 of symptoms has been found to result in higher patient anxiety, greater perceived severity of
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5 2 the condition and a patient preference of more invasive treatments.^{18 21-23} This has been
6
7 3 evidenced in conditions including gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, polycystic ovary
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9 4 syndrome, bone fracture, and low back pain.^{18 21-23} Similarly, research suggests that patients
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11 5 diagnosed with diabetes demonstrate a propensity to medical interventions, including insulin
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13 6 use, oral medication taking, and blood glucose monitoring, compared to less invasive
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15 7 interventions, such as changes to diet and exercise practices.²⁴ The use of a medicalised label
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17 8 over a descriptive label for a health condition is also suggested to result in increased
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19 9 confidence in the medical professional and greater adoption of sick role behaviour.²⁵
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21 10 Alternatively, use of descriptive labels for health conditions was found to be associated with
22
23 11 greater patient ownership of the condition.²⁵

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28 12 To date, our understanding of the consequences and impacts of a diagnostic label has
29
30 13 been limited to a single perspective (e.g. patient, health care practitioner), single condition
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32 14 (e.g. gastro-oesophageal reflux disease), or restricted to a specific study design (e.g.
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34 15 hypothetical research design) and a comprehensive synthesis of this information across health
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36 16 conditions is lacking.^{26 27} Further, exploring the real world impact of a diagnostic label
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38 17 including benefits and harms has received little attention.^{22 28 29} Therefore, the aims of this
39
40 18 systematic scoping review are to systematically review original and synthesised research
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42 19 exploring the consequences of being given a label for a health condition to:
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- 46 20 1. Identify the range of potential consequences of labelling of health conditions from an
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48 21 individual, societal, and health practitioner viewpoint;
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50 22 2. Explore why, for whom, and in what contexts labelling of health conditions is, or is not,
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52 23 influential; and,
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54 24 3. Evaluate the methods used to study the impact of labelling health conditions.
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METHODS AND ANALYSIS

Scoping reviews are suggested as an alternative to systematic reviews, allowing for a broader examination and synthesis of existing research and identification of research gaps.³⁰ The proposed systematic scoping review will adhere to the Joanna Briggs Methodology for Scoping Reviews,³¹ and adhere to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR).³² This approach was selected to allow sufficient documentation of the review process. An initial search was conducted in August 2019 to pilot the screening process and data extraction spreadsheet. The review is expected to be complete by October 2020.

Consumer involvement in scoping review design and framework development

A convenience sampling survey was conducted to explore the public's opinion of the consequences of diagnostic label for health conditions. In April 2019, we posted the questions "What are the labelling consequences of being given a health diagnosis? We're working up a list and so far we have: anxiety, relief, more tests, stigma, medico-legal problems. What else?" on two social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter. Responses on Facebook included 14 comments from six individuals, while Twitter responses resulted in 45 comments from 40 individuals. The results of this survey were used to inform the development of the search strategy, inclusion and exclusion criteria, data extraction form, and an initial qualitative framework (Table 1) that will be used in this scoping review.

Table 1. Coding Framework of Social Media Responses.

Name	Description	Examples
Psychological Impact	Psychological impact of diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased self-understanding - Stigma (internalised stigma (self); perceived stigma from others)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased psychological distress (anxiety, depression, phobia, worry, fear, stress)
Support		Support gained or loss as a result of diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support groups: Increased support of others with similar diagnosis; network with other patients - Others less respectful, more withdrawn and judgemental
Development	Education	Seeking to become more informed on diagnoses, testing, intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in health literacy due to motivation to find about treatment options
	Planning	Forward planning and decision making as a result of diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to plan – even if there may not be treatment, provides opportunity to get affairs in order (e.g. wills).
Lifestyle	Behaviour	Behaviour changes as a result of diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change diet - Change lifestyle
	Employment	Effect of diagnosis on employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More Sick days; Time off work; absenteeism
	Financial	Effect of diagnosis on finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnosis provides access to funds (e.g. Medicare, NDIS, insurance)
Service Use	Testing	Further assessment and tests as a result of diagnosis (including testing of family)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seeking more investigations - Scans and imaging - Encourages screening of other family members at low-risk of the condition
	Treatment	Treatment and intervention as a result of diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear Treatment path; clearer treatment protocols - Side-effects (of medication sexual, agitation, suicidality, emotional numbing)

1 Inclusion criteria

2 Peer reviewed publications including systematic or literature reviews and original
 3 studies which describe the perceived consequences for individuals labelled with a non-cancer
 4 health condition will be included. Perceived consequences can be reported from the
 5 perspectives of the individuals, their family, friends, and/or carers, or health professionals.
 6 As we expect individuals labelled as having a cancer condition will have different
 7 experiences to those labelled with general health conditions, studies that focus on these
 8 samples are excluded. Similarly, studies that report the consequence of labels for people
 9 using hypothetical case scenarios, or individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or social
 10 attributes such as race, sexual identity or orientation will also be excluded (see Table 2 for
 11 more details).

12 Table 2. Inclusion Criteria

Aspect	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Types of studies	Original Studies (Cohort, Case-Controlled, Cross-Sectional, Observational, RCT, Focus Groups)* Synthesised Studies (Systematic Reviews) <i>*Studies utilising qualitative methodologies do not require multiple group comparisons for inclusion.</i>	Protocols (final study to be sourced) Opinion pieces and commentaries Quantitative Cohort, Case-Controlled, and Cross-Sectional studies without comparator Hypothetical or vignette based studies

Participants	Individuals, no age limit (e.g. adults, children, family, carers, health professionals, general public)	Animal subjects
Condition	<p>Screening and/or labelling of physical or psychological health condition/s</p> <p>Self-reported (e.g. response to questions such as “has your GP ever told you that you have hypertension?”)</p> <p>Health condition confirmed (e.g. medical examination and testing completed as part of the study)</p>	<p>Labelling of intellectual impairment, race, ethnicity, sexual identity or sexual orientation</p> <p>Labelling of cancers and cancer related conditions</p> <p>Self-reported conditions provided by unqualified professional (e.g. physiotherapist telling patient they have hypertension)</p> <p>Self-identified conditions (e.g. googling of symptoms, no confirmation by medical professional)</p>
Outcomes	<p>Consequences, impact, effects of the health condition label or diagnosis</p> <p>Perceived harms and/or benefits (e.g. illness burden)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lived experience - Psychological impact (e.g. anxiety, quality of life) - Behaviour change (e.g. participation in employment) 	<p>Effect of the health condition (e.g. disease mechanisms/traits)</p> <p>Gene labelling</p> <p>Food or nutrition labelling</p> <p>Drug effects/effectiveness</p> <p>Intervention effects/effectiveness (e.g. intervention A vs intervention B)</p>

	- Support (e.g. financial, social support)	
Language	No language limitations	-
Date	No date limitations	-

Search strategy

A structured search, developed in collaboration with an information specialist, of five electronic databases (PubMed, Embase, PsychINFO, Cochrane, CINAHL) will be conducted to identify relevant publications. Databases will be searched from their inception.

Preliminary searches were conducted in August 2019 and will be updated in June 2020.

Reference lists of included articles will be searched and forward citation searching of included articles will be conducted. The full search strategy to be used is reported in the Supplementary Material.

Study selection

Titles and abstracts of 10% of articles retrieved through electronic and manual searches will be independently screened by two reviewers (RS and LK) for eligibility against the pre-specified inclusion criteria. Disagreements will be resolved through discussion and consultation with additional reviewers as required. When interrater reliability (Kappa) >0.8 is achieved for the screened studies, remaining studies will continue to be screened by one reviewer (RS). Articles identified as unclear for inclusion will be reviewed by an additional reviewer as required.

1 **Data extraction**

2 Full text publications will be obtained for any potentially relevant studies and will be
3 screened for inclusion against the same inclusion criteria by one reviewer (RS). Additional
4 uncertainties regarding eligibility for inclusion will be resolved through discussion with two
5 other reviewers (RT and PG). Two reviewers (RS and ZAM) will independently extract
6 study meta-data and quantitative data from 10% of included studies using a standardised data
7 extraction form in Microsoft Excel that will be piloted prior to full-text data extraction.

8 These same reviewers will also extract qualitative data from 10% of studies using
9 NVivo version 12. Conflicts will be resolved by a third party as required. When interrater
10 reliability (Kappa) >0.8 is achieved for extracted data, one reviewer (RS) will continue to
11 extract data from a random sample of one-third of the remaining included studies, expanding
12 and amending the coding framework as required. Queries will be resolved through
13 discussion with a second reviewer (ZAM). A second third of the remaining included studies
14 will be randomly selected and reviewed, and data extracted to the coding framework, which
15 will be expanded and amended as necessary. Data saturation will be defined using indicative
16 thematic saturation, which states data saturation as the non-emergence of new codes or
17 themes.³³ Extracted data will include study characteristics (author, journal, year of
18 publication, study country and setting), participant characteristics (number of participants,
19 age, health condition), and outcomes (consequences, impact, effects of the diagnostic label).
20 For qualitative studies, we will extract author reported themes and supporting quotes
21 provided in the published manuscripts and apply these to the coding framework. For studies
22 with quantitative measures, extracted data will include, but is not limited to, author
23 summaries of primary and secondary outcomes from validated and unvalidated measures (for
24 example, Short Form Health Survey (SF-36)³⁴, or General Health Questionnaire (GHQ)³⁵), as
25 identified in the results section of the published study.

1 Patient and public involvement

2 This scoping review has no direct patient involvement.

4 Study quality

5 Study quality will be assessed using appraisal tools appropriate for the designs
6 identified, for example, the McGill Mixed Methods Critical Appraisal Tool (MMAT)³⁶ will
7 be used for original studies and Assessing the Methodological Quality of Systematic
8 Reviews, version 2 (AMSTAR-2)³⁷ will be used for systematic reviews. The former critical
9 appraisal tool has been developed for evaluating original studies utilising qualitative,
10 quantitative, or mixed methodologies, while the latter tool was developed for appraising the
11 quality of systematic reviews which include randomised or non-randomised studies. Quality
12 assessment will be conducted independently by two authors (RS and ZAM) for 10% of the
13 included studies. Conflicts will be resolved through discussion or by a third reviewer, as
14 necessary.

16 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

17 We will present study selection in a flow diagram according to PRISMA-Scr and
18 included studies will be described in a table of characteristics.³² Results will be aggregated as
19 appropriate. Results pertinent to the consequences of labelling of health conditions will be
20 collated to expand those provided in Table 1, with empirical data regarding rate and severity
21 of these consequences also examined. Additionally, a compendium of methods used to elicit
22 consequences of health condition labelling will be developed and methodology appraised.
23 For quantitative studies, extracted data will be tabulated in a descriptive and/or statistical
24 manner depending on the availability of data (i.e. number of studies reporting similar
25 outcome measures or measurement of similar constructs, such as quality of life or symptoms

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3 1 of anxiety) and degree of heterogeneity between studies (e.g. population, clinical conditions).
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5 2 Should data not support a meta-analysis, results from studies which provide quantitative data
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7 3 will be reported in a narrative synthesis and interpreted alongside results from qualitative
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9 4 studies. Qualitative data will be analysed using developed frameworks (see Table 1), and
10
11 5 following established protocols for the qualitative analysis of information in the social
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13 6 sciences.³⁸ The characteristics and results of all included studies will be reported in tables
14
15 7 and summarised in text.
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9 **Ethics and Dissemination**

10 As the current study is a systematic scoping review protocol, ethics is not required.
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12 Dissemination of results will be made public via peer-reviewed publications, conference
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14 presentations and lay-person summaries on various on-line platforms (e.g. The
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Conversation).

REQUIRED STATEMENTS

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Competing Interests: None declared.

Patient consent for publication: Not required.

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6 4
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For peer review only

Supplementary Material
Search Strategies

PubMed

(Health[tiab] OR Illness[tiab] OR Disorder[tiab] OR Condition[tiab] OR Disease[tiab])

AND

((Psychological[ti] OR Label[tiab] OR Labelling[tiab] OR Labeling[tiab]) AND
 (Diagnosis[tiab] OR Diagnostic[tiab] OR Screening[Mesh] OR Screening[tiab] OR
 Screened[tiab]))

AND

(Patient[tiab] OR Patients[tiab] OR Individuals[tiab] OR Self[tiab] OR Parent[tiab] OR
 Family[tiab] OR Adult[tiab] OR Men[tiab] OR Women[tiab])

AND

(Attitude[Mesh] OR Awareness[tiab] OR Stigma[tiab] OR Beliefs[tiab] OR Well-being[tiab]
 OR Wellbeing[tiab] OR Meaning[tiab] OR Impact[tiab] OR Effect[tiab] OR Effects[tiab] OR
 Influence[tiab] OR Experience[tiab])

AND

("Systematic review"[tiab] OR "Systematic Review"[pt] OR "Cochrane Database Syst
 Rev"[ta] OR "meta analysis"[pt] OR "meta analysis"[tiab] OR ((Search[tiab] OR
 Searched[tiab] OR Searches[tiab]) AND (PubMed[tiab] OR Medline[tiab] OR Database[tiab]
 OR Databases[tiab])) OR "randomized controlled trial"[pt] OR "controlled clinical trial"[pt]
 OR randomized[tiab] OR randomised[tiab] OR placebo[tiab] OR randomly[tiab] OR
 trial[tiab] OR groups[tiab] OR "Epidemiologic Studies"[Mesh] OR "case-control
 studies"[Mesh] OR "Cohort Studies"[Mesh] OR "case control"[tiab] OR Cohort[tiab] OR
 "Follow up"[tiab] OR Observational[tiab] OR Longitudinal[tiab] OR Prospective[tiab] OR
 retrospective[tiab] OR "cross sectional"[tiab] OR "Cross-Sectional Studies"[Mesh] OR
 Investigated[tiab] OR Analysis[tiab] OR Statistics[tiab] OR Data[tiab] OR "statistics and
 numerical data"[sh] OR "epidemiology"[sh])

NOT

(Animals[Mesh] NOT (Animals[Mesh] AND Humans[Mesh]))

NOT

(Injections[Mesh] OR Open-Label[tiab] OR "Product Labeling"[Mesh] OR "Drug
 Labeling"[Mesh] OR "Affinity Labels"[Mesh] OR "Food Labeling"[Mesh] OR "Isotope
 Labeling"[Mesh] OR "Staining and Labeling"[Mesh] OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling"[Mesh]
 OR "Primed In Situ Labeling"[Mesh] OR Rat[ti] OR Rats[ti] OR Mice[ti] OR Mouse[ti] OR
 Placebo[ti] OR "Drug effects"[sh] OR Drug[ti] OR Drugs[ti] OR "Food and Drug
 Administration"[ti] OR "Food labeling"[ti] OR "Calorie labeling"[ti] OR Injection[ti] OR
 Cigarette[ti])

Embase

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4 (((Health:ti,ab OR Illness:ti,ab OR Disorder:ti,ab OR Condition:ti,ab OR Disease:ti,ab)))
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6 AND
7 (((Psychological:ti OR Label:ti,ab OR Labelling:ti,ab OR Labeling:ti,ab) AND
8 (Diagnosis:ti,ab OR Diagnostic:ti,ab OR Screening:ti,ab OR Screening:ti,ab OR
9 Screened:ti,ab))))
10
11 AND
12 (((Patient:ti,ab OR Patients:ti,ab OR Individuals:ti,ab OR Self:ti,ab OR Parent:ti,ab OR
13 Family:ti,ab OR Adult:ti,ab OR Men:ti,ab OR Women:ti,ab)))
14
15 AND
16 (((Attitude:ti,ab OR Awareness:ti,ab OR Stigma:ti,ab OR Beliefs:ti,ab OR Well-being:ti,ab
17 OR Wellbeing:ti,ab OR Meaning:ti,ab OR Impact:ti,ab OR Effect:ti,ab OR Effects:ti,ab OR
18 Influence:ti,ab OR Experience:ti,ab)))
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20 AND
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22 (((("Systematic review":ti,ab OR "Systematic Review":it OR "Cochrane Database Syst
23 Rev.jn" OR "meta analysis":it OR "meta analysis":ti,ab OR ((Search:ti,ab OR Searched:ti,ab
24 OR Searches:ti,ab) AND (PubMed:ti,ab OR Medline:ti,ab OR Database:ti,ab OR
25 Databases:ti,ab)) OR "randomized controlled trial":it OR "controlled clinical trial":it OR
26 randomized:ti,ab OR randomised:ti,ab OR placebo:ti,ab OR randomly:ti,ab OR trial:ti,ab OR
27 groups:ti,ab OR "Epidemiologic Studies" OR "case-control studies" OR "Cohort Studies" OR
28 "case control":ti,ab OR Cohort:ti,ab OR "Follow up":ti,ab OR Observational:ti,ab OR
29 Longitudinal:ti,ab OR Prospective:ti,ab OR retrospective:ti,ab OR "cross sectional":ti,ab OR
30 "Cross-Sectional Studies" OR Investigated:ti,ab OR Analysis:ti,ab OR Statistics:ti,ab OR
31 Data:ti,ab OR epidemiology:ti,ab)))
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36 (((Injections OR Open-Label:ti,ab OR "Product Labeling" OR "Drug Labeling" OR "Drug
37 Therapy" OR "Affinity Labels" OR "Food Labeling" OR "Isotope Labeling" OR "Staining
38 and Labeling" OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling" OR "Primed In Situ Labeling" OR Rat:ti OR
39 Rats:ti OR Mice:ti OR Mouse:ti OR Placebo:ti OR "Drug effects.hw" OR Drug:ti OR
40 Drugs:ti OR "Off Label":ti,ab OR Food AND "Drug Administration":ti OR "Food
41 labeling":ti OR "Calorie labeling":ti OR Injection:ti OR Cigarette:ti)))
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(Diagnosis.ti,ab OR Diagnostic.ti,ab OR Screening.ti,ab OR Screening.ti,ab OR

Screened.ti,ab)))

AND

((Patient.ti,ab OR Patients.ti,ab OR Individuals.ti,ab OR Self.ti,ab OR Parent.ti,ab OR

Family.ti,ab OR Adult.ti,ab OR Men.ti,ab OR Women.ti,ab))

AND

((Attitude.ti,ab OR Awareness.ti,ab OR Stigma.ti,ab OR Beliefs.ti,ab OR Well-being.ti,ab

OR Wellbeing.ti,ab OR Meaning.ti,ab OR Impact.ti,ab OR Effect.ti,ab OR Effects.ti,ab OR

Influence.ti,ab OR Experience.ti,ab))

AND

((Systematic review.ti,ab OR Systematic Review.pt OR Cochrane Database Syst Rev.jn OR

meta analysis.pt OR meta analysis.ti,ab OR ((Search.ti,ab OR Searched.ti,ab OR

Searches.ti,ab) AND (PubMed.ti,ab OR Medline.ti,ab OR Database.ti,ab OR

Databases.ti,ab)) OR randomized controlled trial.pt OR controlled clinical trial.pt OR

randomized.ti,ab OR randomised.ti,ab OR placebo.ti,ab OR randomly.ti,ab OR trial.ti,ab OR

groups.ti,ab OR "Epidemiologic Studies" OR "case-control studies" OR "Cohort Studies" OR

case control.ti,ab OR Cohort.ti,ab OR Follow up.ti,ab OR Observational.ti,ab OR

Longitudinal.ti,ab OR Prospective.ti,ab OR retrospective.ti,ab OR cross sectional.ti,ab OR

"Cross-Sectional Studies" OR Investigated.ti,ab OR Analysis.ti,ab OR Statistics.ti,ab OR

Data.ti,ab OR epidemiology.ti,ab))

NOT

((Injections OR Open-Label.ti,ab OR "Product Labeling" OR "Drug Labeling" OR "Drug

Therapy" OR "Affinity Labels" OR "Food Labeling" OR "Isotope Labeling" OR "Staining

and Labeling" OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling" OR "Primed In Situ Labeling" OR Rat.ti OR

Rats.ti OR Mice.ti OR Mouse.ti OR Placebo.ti OR Drug effects.hw OR Drug.ti OR Drugs.ti

OR Off Label.ti,ab OR Food and Drug Administration.ti OR Food labeling.ti OR Calorie

labeling.ti OR Injection.ti OR Cigarette.ti))

Only

Cochrane

(((Health:ti,ab OR Illness:ti,ab OR Disorder:ti,ab OR Condition:ti,ab OR Disease:ti,ab)))

AND

(((Psychological:ti OR Label:ti,ab OR Labelling:ti,ab OR Labeling:ti,ab) AND

(Diagnosis:ti,ab OR Diagnostic:ti,ab OR Screening:ti,ab OR Screening:ti,ab OR

Screened:ti,ab))))

AND

(((Patient:ti,ab OR Patients:ti,ab OR Individuals:ti,ab OR Self:ti,ab OR Parent:ti,ab OR

Family:ti,ab OR Adult:ti,ab OR Men:ti,ab OR Women:ti,ab)))

AND

(((Attitude:ti,ab OR Awareness:ti,ab OR Stigma:ti,ab OR Beliefs:ti,ab OR Well-being:ti,ab

OR Wellbeing:ti,ab OR Meaning:ti,ab OR Impact:ti,ab OR Effect:ti,ab OR Effects:ti,ab OR

Influence:ti,ab OR Experience:ti,ab)))

AND

(((("Systematic review":ti,ab OR "Systematic Review":pt OR "Cochrane Database Syst

Rev.jn" OR "meta analysis":pt OR "meta analysis":ti,ab OR ((Search:ti,ab OR Searched:ti,ab

OR Searches:ti,ab) AND (PubMed:ti,ab OR Medline:ti,ab OR Database:ti,ab OR

Databases:ti,ab)) OR "randomized controlled trial":pt OR "controlled clinical trial":pt OR

randomized:ti,ab OR randomised:ti,ab OR placebo:ti,ab OR randomly:ti,ab OR trial:ti,ab OR

groups:ti,ab OR "Epidemiologic Studies" OR "case-control studies" OR "Cohort Studies" OR

"case control":ti,ab OR Cohort:ti,ab OR "Follow up":ti,ab OR Observational:ti,ab OR

Longitudinal:ti,ab OR Prospective:ti,ab OR retrospective:ti,ab OR "cross sectional":ti,ab OR

"Cross-Sectional Studies" OR Investigated:ti,ab OR Analysis:ti,ab OR Statistics:ti,ab OR

Data:ti,ab OR epidemiology:ti,ab)))

NOT

(((Injections OR Open-Label:ti,ab OR "Product Labeling" OR "Drug Labeling" OR "Drug

Therapy" OR "Affinity Labels" OR "Food Labeling" OR "Isotope Labeling" OR "Staining

and Labeling" OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling" OR "Primed In Situ Labeling" OR Rat:ti OR

Rats:ti OR Mice:ti OR Mouse:ti OR Placebo:ti OR "Drug effects.hw" OR Drug:ti OR

Drugs:ti OR "Off Label":ti,ab OR Food AND "Drug Administration":ti OR "Food

labeling":ti OR "Calorie labeling":ti OR Injection:ti OR Cigarette:ti)))

CINAHL

((((TI Health OR AB Health OR TI Illness OR AB Illness OR TI Disorder OR AB Disorder OR TI Condition OR AB Condition OR TI Disease OR AB Disease))))

AND

((((TI Psychological OR TI Label OR AB Label OR TI Labelling OR AB Labelling OR TI Labeling OR AB Labeling) AND (TI Diagnosis OR AB Diagnosis OR TI Diagnostic OR AB Diagnostic OR TI Screening OR AB Screening OR TI Screening OR AB Screening OR TI Screened OR AB Screened))))

AND

((((TI Patient OR AB Patient OR TI Patients OR AB Patients OR TI Individuals OR AB Individuals OR TI Self OR AB Self OR TI Parent OR AB Parent OR TI Family OR AB Family OR TI Adult OR AB Adult OR TI Men OR AB Men OR TI Women OR AB Women))))

AND

((((TI Attitude OR AB Attitude OR TI Awareness OR AB Awareness OR TI Stigma OR AB Stigma OR TI Beliefs OR AB Beliefs OR TI Well-being OR AB Well-being OR TI Wellbeing OR AB Wellbeing OR TI Meaning OR AB Meaning OR TI Impact OR AB Impact OR TI Effect OR AB Effect OR TI Effects OR AB Effects OR TI Influence OR AB Influence OR TI Experience OR AB Experience))))

AND

((((TI "Systematic review" OR AB "Systematic review" OR PT "Systematic Review" OR "Cochrane Database Syst Rev.jn" OR PT "meta analysis" OR TI "meta analysis" OR AB "meta analysis" OR ((TI Search OR AB Search OR TI Searched OR AB Searched OR TI Searches OR AB Searches) AND (TI PubMed OR AB PubMed OR TI Medline OR AB Medline OR TI Database OR AB Database OR TI Databases OR AB Databases)) OR PT "randomized controlled trial" OR PT "controlled clinical trial" OR TI randomized OR AB randomized OR TI randomised OR AB randomised OR TI placebo OR AB placebo OR TI randomly OR AB randomly OR TI trial OR AB trial OR TI groups OR AB groups OR "Epidemiologic Studies" OR "case-control studies" OR "Cohort Studies" OR TI "case control" OR AB "case control" OR TI Cohort OR AB Cohort OR TI "Follow up" OR AB "Follow up" OR TI Observational OR AB Observational OR TI Longitudinal OR AB Longitudinal OR TI Prospective OR AB Prospective OR TI retrospective OR AB retrospective OR TI "cross sectional" OR AB "cross sectional" OR "Cross-Sectional Studies" OR TI Investigated OR AB Investigated OR TI Analysis OR AB Analysis OR TI Statistics OR AB Statistics OR TI Data OR AB Data OR TI epidemiology OR AB epidemiology))))

NOT

((((Injections OR TI Open-Label OR AB Open-Label OR "Product Labeling" OR "Drug Labeling" OR "Drug Therapy" OR "Affinity Labels" OR "Food Labeling" OR "Isotope Labeling" OR "Staining and Labeling" OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling" OR "Primed In Situ Labeling" OR TI Rat OR TI Rats OR TI Mice OR TI Mouse OR TI Placebo OR "Drug effects.hw" OR TI Drug OR TI Drugs OR TI "Off Label" OR AB "Off Label" OR Food AND TI "Drug Administration" OR TI "Food labeling" OR TI "Calorie labeling" OR TI Injection OR TI Cigarette))))

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Consequences of health condition labelling: protocol for a systematic scoping review

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9 4 **Consequences of health condition labelling: protocol for a systematic scoping review**
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19 10 Rebecca Sims¹, Luise Kazda², Zoe A Michaleff¹, Paul Glasziou¹, Rae Thomas¹
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ABSTRACT

Introduction. When health conditions are labelled it is often to classify and communicate a set of symptoms. While diagnostic labelling can provide explanation for an individual's symptoms, it can also impact how individuals and others view those symptoms. Despite existing research regarding the effects of labelling health conditions, a synthesis of these effects has not occurred. We will conduct a systematic scoping review to synthesise the reported consequences and impact of being given a label for a health condition from an individual, societal and health practitioner perspective and explore in what context labelling of health conditions is considered important.

Methods and analysis. The review will adhere to the Joanna Briggs Methodology for Scoping Reviews. Searches will be conducted in five electronic databases (PubMed, Embase, PsychINFO, Cochrane, CINAHL). Reference lists of included studies will be screened and forward and backward citation searching of included articles will be conducted. We will include reviews and original studies which describe the consequences for individuals labelled with a non-cancer health condition. We will exclude hypothetical research designs and studies focussed on the consequences of labelling cancer conditions, intellectual disabilities, and/or social attributes. We will conduct thematic analyses for qualitative data and descriptive or meta-analyses for quantitative data where appropriate.

Ethics and dissemination. Ethical approval is not required for a scoping review. Results will be disseminated via publication in a peer-reviewed journal, conference presentations, and lay-person summaries on various online platforms. Findings from this systematic scoping review will identify gaps in current understanding of how, when, why, and for whom a diagnostic label is important and inform future research.

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3 **1 Strengths and limitations of this study**
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- 6 2 - A broad, comprehensive search strategy will be conducted in 5 electronic databases.
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8 3 - We will include both qualitative and quantitative studies which will enhance our
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10 current understanding of the consequences of health condition labelling.
11 4
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13 5 - Two reviewers will screen 10% of titles and abstracts, extract data and assess quality
14
15 6 of included studies.
16
17 7 - Eligibility will not be limited to specific health conditions, therefore, the
18
19 consequences identified will be generalisable to health condition labelling more
20 8
21 broadly.
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24 10 - Articles will be limited to peer-reviewed publications and not include grey or theory-
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26 based literature.
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INTRODUCTION

The diagnosis of physical and psychological health conditions is increasing in prevalence.¹⁻⁵ Diagnoses often occur in the context of individuals seeking to identify and treat symptoms. However, diagnoses can also occur as a result of screening tests where individuals have no discernible signs or symptoms of disease (such as when a routine test determines an individual has hypertension)⁶, from unanticipated findings in investigations for other health concerns (such as identifying an anomaly in a person's thyroid when conducting an MRI of the spine),⁷ or, when people are newly diagnosed with a health condition because of changes to diagnostic thresholds or cut-offs for the condition opposed to changes in individual circumstances (such as for gestational diabetes).¹ The value of a diagnosis, particularly in these latter contexts, is not always evident and the risk of over- and mis-diagnosis is significant.^{1 8 9}

Diagnostic labels provide healthcare professionals with a framework from which to organise and interpret clinical symptom presentations, support clinical decision making through directing treatment decisions, and provide information on possible condition course and overall prognosis.^{10 11} Further, diagnostic labels allow clinicians to assume homogeneity amongst members of patient groups, in addition to providing an efficient method for health professionals to communicate.¹²

Despite well-meaning intentions, application of diagnostic labels in real-world practice can be problematic. Diagnostic criteria can often be ambiguous. For example, symptoms of anxiety, such as restlessness, fatigue, or difficulty concentrating, may be explained by diagnoses of anxiety, depressive, or bipolar and related disorders.^{13 14} Similarly, chest pain symptoms may be explained by several alternative diagnostic categories such as inflammatory diseases, musculoskeletal conditions, or coronary diseases.^{15 16} Lastly, non-

1 specific low back pain is the leading cause of disability worldwide, yet for the majority of
2 people no pathoanatomical cause can be identified.¹⁷

3 From the perspective of a patient, a diagnostic label can have a significant impact
4 (negative and positive) on their health outcomes, psychological wellbeing, and behaviour,
5 and can influence how they are viewed and managed by healthcare professionals and are
6 perceived by other members in society (e.g. school, workplace).^{3 5 18} In a cohort of over
7 33,000 adults, individuals who were aware that they had hypertension reported elevated
8 levels of psychological distress compared to those individuals who had hypertension,
9 however, were unaware of this.³ A study investigating the impact of labelling borderline
10 personality disorder on clinician interpretation of patient symptoms found clinicians' prior
11 awareness of a diagnosis of borderline personality disorder, compared to no awareness,
12 resulted in a tendency to frame observations of the individual in terms of the label, and a
13 failure to observe positive behaviours.¹²

14 Conversely, a diagnostic label may have positive effects on the individual. These
15 include timely referral to necessary healthcare which, in turn, can reduce morbidity and
16 mortality, improve predictions regarding condition progression as well as facilitate access to
17 support, services and resources (for example, diagnosis based school funding^{19 20} and social
18 support⁵) and provide an explanation and validation of an individual's signs and symptoms.
19 A recent study exploring the impact of chronic fatigue syndrome using hypothetical scenarios
20 of a close friend's diagnosis reported a label of chronic fatigue, compared with no label,
21 elicited higher sympathetic responses from participants, greater potential social support, and
22 greater support for active treatment.⁵

23 The terms used to describe a diagnostic label have been found to influence an
24 individual's behaviour, psychological well-being and treatment preferences. Specifically, a
25 diagnostic label that uses medicalised and precise terminology compared with a description

1
2
3 1 of symptoms has been found to result in higher patient anxiety, greater perceived severity of
4
5 2 the condition and a patient preference of more invasive treatments.^{18 21-23} This has been
6
7 3 evidenced in conditions including gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, polycystic ovary
8
9 4 syndrome, bone fracture, and low back pain.^{18 21-23} Similarly, research suggests that patients
10
11 5 diagnosed with diabetes demonstrate a propensity to medical interventions, including insulin
12
13 6 use, oral medication taking, and blood glucose monitoring, compared to less invasive
14
15 7 interventions, such as changes to diet and exercise practices.²⁴ The use of a medicalised label
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17 8 over a descriptive label for a health condition is also suggested to result in increased
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19 9 confidence in the medical professional and greater adoption of sick role behaviour.²⁵
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21 10 Alternatively, use of descriptive labels for health conditions was found to be associated with
22
23 11 greater patient ownership of the condition.²⁵

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28 12 To date, our understanding of the consequences and impacts of a diagnostic label has
29
30 13 been limited to a single perspective (e.g. patient, health care practitioner), single condition
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32 14 (e.g. gastro-oesophageal reflux disease), or restricted to a specific study design (e.g.
33
34 15 hypothetical research design) and a comprehensive synthesis of this information across health
35
36 16 conditions is lacking.^{26 27} Further, exploring the real world impact of a diagnostic label
37
38 17 including benefits and harms has received little attention.^{22 28 29} Therefore, the aims of this
39
40 18 systematic scoping review are to systematically review original and synthesised research
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42 19 exploring the consequences of being given a label for a health condition to:
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- 46 20 1. Identify the range of potential consequences of labelling of health conditions from an
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48 21 individual, societal, and health practitioner viewpoint;
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50 22 2. Explore why, for whom, and in what contexts labelling of health conditions is, or is not,
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52 23 influential; and,
- 53
54 24 3. Evaluate the methods used to study the impact of labelling health conditions.
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METHODS AND ANALYSIS

Scoping reviews are suggested as an alternative to systematic reviews, allowing for a broader examination and synthesis of existing research and identification of research gaps.³⁰ The proposed systematic scoping review will adhere to the Joanna Briggs Methodology for Scoping Reviews,³¹ and adhere to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR).³² This approach was selected to allow sufficient documentation of the review process. An initial search was conducted in August 2019 to pilot the screening process and data extraction spreadsheet. The review is expected to be complete by October 2020.

Consumer involvement in scoping review design and framework development

A convenience sampling survey was conducted to explore the public's opinion of the consequences of diagnostic label for health conditions. In April 2019, we posted the questions "What are the labelling consequences of being given a health diagnosis? We're working up a list and so far we have: anxiety, relief, more tests, stigma, medico-legal problems. What else?" on two social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter. Responses on Facebook included 14 comments from six individuals, while Twitter responses resulted in 45 comments from 40 individuals. The results of this survey were used to inform the development of the search strategy, inclusion and exclusion criteria, data extraction form, and an initial qualitative framework (Table 1) that will be used in this scoping review.

Table 1. Coding Framework of Social Media Responses.

Name	Description	Examples
Psychological Impact	Psychological impact of diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased self-understanding - Stigma (internalised stigma (self); perceived stigma from others)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased psychological distress (anxiety, depression, phobia, worry, fear, stress)
Support		Support gained or loss as a result of diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support groups: Increased support of others with similar diagnosis; network with other patients - Others less respectful, more withdrawn and judgemental
Development	Education	Seeking to become more informed on diagnoses, testing, intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in health literacy due to motivation to find about treatment options
	Planning	Forward planning and decision making as a result of diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to plan – even if there may not be treatment, provides opportunity to get affairs in order (e.g. wills).
Lifestyle	Behaviour	Behaviour changes as a result of diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change diet - Change lifestyle
	Employment	Effect of diagnosis on employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More Sick days; Time off work; absenteeism
	Financial	Effect of diagnosis on finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnosis provides access to funds (e.g. Medicare, NDIS, insurance)
Service Use	Testing	Further assessment and tests as a result of diagnosis (including testing of family)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seeking more investigations - Scans and imaging - Encourages screening of other family members at low-risk of the condition
	Treatment	Treatment and intervention as a result of diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear Treatment path; clearer treatment protocols - Side-effects (of medication sexual, agitation, suicidality, emotional numbing)

1 Inclusion criteria

2 Peer reviewed publications including systematic or literature reviews and original
 3 studies which describe the perceived consequences for individuals labelled with a non-cancer
 4 health condition will be included. Perceived consequences can be reported from the
 5 perspectives of the individuals, their family, friends, and/or carers, or health professionals.
 6 As we expect individuals labelled as having a cancer condition will have different
 7 experiences to those labelled with general health conditions, studies that focus on these
 8 samples are excluded. Similarly, studies that report the consequence of labels for people
 9 using hypothetical case scenarios, or individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or social
 10 attributes such as race, sexual identity or orientation will also be excluded (see Table 2 for
 11 more details).

12 Table 2. Inclusion Criteria

Aspect	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Types of studies	Original Studies (Cohort, Case-Controlled, Cross-Sectional, Observational, RCT, Focus Groups)* Synthesised Studies (Systematic Reviews) <i>*Studies utilising qualitative methodologies do not require multiple group comparisons for inclusion.</i>	Protocols (final study to be sourced) Opinion pieces and commentaries Quantitative Cohort, Case-Controlled, and Cross-Sectional studies without comparator Hypothetical or vignette based studies

Participants	Individuals, no age limit (e.g. adults, children, family, carers, health professionals, general public)	Animal subjects
Condition	<p>Screening and/or labelling of physical or psychological health condition/s</p> <p>Self-reported (e.g. response to questions such as “has your GP ever told you that you have hypertension?”)</p> <p>Health condition confirmed (e.g. medical examination and testing completed as part of the study)</p>	<p>Labelling of intellectual impairment, race, ethnicity, sexual identity or sexual orientation</p> <p>Labelling of cancers and cancer related conditions</p> <p>Self-reported conditions provided by unqualified professional (e.g. physiotherapist telling patient they have hypertension)</p> <p>Self-identified conditions (e.g. googling of symptoms, no confirmation by medical professional)</p>
Outcomes	<p>Consequences, impact, effects of the health condition label or diagnosis</p> <p>Perceived harms and/or benefits (e.g. illness burden)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lived experience - Psychological impact (e.g. anxiety, quality of life) - Behaviour change (e.g. participation in employment) 	<p>Effect of the health condition (e.g. disease mechanisms/traits)</p> <p>Gene labelling</p> <p>Food or nutrition labelling</p> <p>Drug effects/effectiveness</p> <p>Intervention effects/effectiveness (e.g. intervention A vs intervention B)</p>

	- Support (e.g. financial, social support)	
Language	No language limitations	-
Date	No date limitations	-

Search strategy

A structured search, developed in collaboration with an information specialist, of five electronic databases (PubMed, Embase, PsycINFO, Cochrane, CINAHL) will be conducted to identify relevant publications. Databases will be searched from their inception.

Preliminary searches were conducted in August 2019 and will be updated in June 2020.

Reference lists of included articles will be searched and forward citation searching of included articles will be conducted. The full search strategy to be used is reported in the Supplementary Material.

Study selection

Titles and abstracts of 10% of articles retrieved through electronic and manual searches will be independently screened by two reviewers (RS and LK) for eligibility against the pre-specified inclusion criteria. Disagreements will be resolved through discussion and consultation with additional reviewers as required. When interrater reliability (Kappa) >0.8 is achieved for the screened studies, remaining studies will continue to be screened by one reviewer (RS). Articles identified as unclear for inclusion will be reviewed by an additional reviewer as required.

1 **Data extraction and framework revision and validation**

2 Full text publications will be obtained, and the reference list reviewed. Any relevant
3 studies found in the reference list will be screened (RS) for inclusion against the same
4 inclusion criteria. Additional uncertainties regarding eligibility for inclusion will be resolved
5 through discussion with other reviewers (RT or PG). Two reviewers (RS and ZAM) will
6 independently extract study data from 10% of included qualitative studies and 10% of
7 included quantitative studies using a standardised data extraction form that will be piloted
8 prior to use. Conflicts will be resolved by a third party as required. Once interrater reliability
9 (Kappa) >0.8 is achieved for extracted data, one reviewer (RS) will undertake the remaining
10 data extraction in a staged process, with this detailed below in the *extraction* sections. The
11 same staged process will be used when extracting data from quantitative and qualitative
12 studies. Queries will be resolved through discussion with a second reviewer (ZAM).

13 The methods used to extract and synthesise the results of qualitative and quantitative
14 studies are based on the meta-analytic techniques described by Sandelowski, Barroso and
15 Voils,³³ Thomas and Harden,³⁴ and Timulak.³⁵ Extracted data will include study
16 characteristics (author, journal, year of publication, study country and setting), participant
17 characteristics (number of participants, age, health condition), and quantitative or qualitative
18 outcomes (consequences, impact, effects of the diagnostic label).

19 *Qualitative data extraction*

20 Data for thematic analysis will be extracted from the published study and include the
21 authors abstracted themes and relevant, supporting quotes, reported in the primary study.
22 Direct quotes will not be extracted in isolation to ensure data “retains its meaning” and is not
23 interpreted or extracted out of context of the primary study. This qualitative meta-analysis

1 technique has been described by Sandelowski, Barroso and Voils,³³ Thomas and Harden,³⁴
2 and Timulak.³⁵

3 *Quantitative data extraction*

4 For studies with quantitative outcomes, extracted data will include, the text and
5 numerical data from the results section reporting primary outcomes.³⁶ Examples of potential
6 quantitative measures include the Short Form Health Survey (SF-36),³⁷ General Health
7 Questionnaire (GHQ),³⁸ or work absenteeism.

8 *Qualitative data analysis*

9 The coding framework developed from social media responses will be iteratively
10 revised using eligible studies retrieved by the electronic database search. Qualitative data
11 will initially be extracted from a random sample of one-third of included qualitative studies
12 and mapped to the coding framework. This framework will be expanded as additional
13 themes emerge. A second third of included qualitative studies will be randomly selected,
14 data extracted and mapped to the updated coding framework until data thematic saturation
15 has been achieved. If new themes are still emerging at this point, the remaining third of
16 qualitative studies will be analysed against the developed framework. Data saturation will be
17 defined using indicative thematic saturation, which states data saturation as the non-
18 emergence of new codes or themes that will result in expansion or revision of the coding
19 framework.³⁶

20 *Quantitative data analysis*

21 Quantitative data will be summarised narratively.³³ For example, we will collate data
22 from studies that used the SF-36, GHQ, or absenteeism and summarise the findings reported
23 in the results section. Unlike the large volume of expected qualitative studies, fewer
24 quantitative studies with comparators are expected. Therefore, outcomes from all of the

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3 1 included quantitative studies will be extracted and, if possible, tabulated by condition and
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5 2 outcomes.
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10 4 **Patient and public involvement**

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13 5 This scoping review has no direct patient involvement.
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17 7 **PRESENTATION OF RESULTS**

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21 8 We will present study selection in a flow diagram according to PRISMA-Scr and
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23 9 included studies will be described in a table of characteristics.³² Results will be aggregated as
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25 10 appropriate. Results pertinent to the consequences of labelling of health conditions will be
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27 11 collated to expand those provided in Table 1, with empirical data regarding rate and severity
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29 12 of these consequences also examined. Additionally, a compendium of methods used to elicit
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31 13 consequences of health condition labelling will be developed and methodology appraised.
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33 14 For quantitative studies, extracted data will be tabulated in a descriptive and/or statistical
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35 15 manner depending on the availability of data (i.e. number of studies reporting similar
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37 16 outcome measures or measurement of similar constructs, such as quality of life or symptoms
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39 17 of anxiety) and degree of heterogeneity between studies (e.g. population, clinical conditions).
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41 18 Should data not support a meta-analysis, results from studies which provide quantitative data
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43 19 will be reported in a narrative synthesis and interpreted alongside results from qualitative
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45 20 studies. Qualitative data will be analysed using developed frameworks (see Table 1), and
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47 21 following established protocols for the qualitative analysis of information in the social
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49 22 sciences.³⁹ The characteristics and results of all included studies will be reported in tables
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51 23 and summarised in text.
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3 **1 Ethics and Dissemination**
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5 2 As the current study is a systematic scoping review protocol, ethics is not required.
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8 3 Dissemination of results will be made public via peer-reviewed publications, conference
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10 4 presentations and lay-person summaries on various on-line platforms (e.g. The
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12 5 Conversation).
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For peer review only

REQUIRED STATEMENTS

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Supplementary Material
Search Strategies

PubMed

(Health[tiab] OR Illness[tiab] OR Disorder[tiab] OR Condition[tiab] OR Disease[tiab])

AND

((Psychological[ti] OR Label[tiab] OR Labelling[tiab] OR Labeling[tiab]) AND
(Diagnosis[tiab] OR Diagnostic[tiab] OR Screening[Mesh] OR Screening[tiab] OR
Screened[tiab]))

AND

(Patient[tiab] OR Patients[tiab] OR Individuals[tiab] OR Self[tiab] OR Parent[tiab] OR
Family[tiab] OR Adult[tiab] OR Men[tiab] OR Women[tiab])

AND

(Attitude[Mesh] OR Awareness[tiab] OR Stigma[tiab] OR Beliefs[tiab] OR Well-being[tiab]
OR Wellbeing[tiab] OR Meaning[tiab] OR Impact[tiab] OR Effect[tiab] OR Effects[tiab] OR
Influence[tiab] OR Experience[tiab])

AND

("Systematic review"[tiab] OR "Systematic Review"[pt] OR "Cochrane Database Syst
Rev"[ta] OR "meta analysis"[pt] OR "meta analysis"[tiab] OR ((Search[tiab] OR
Searched[tiab] OR Searches[tiab]) AND (PubMed[tiab] OR Medline[tiab] OR Database[tiab]
OR Databases[tiab])) OR "randomized controlled trial"[pt] OR "controlled clinical trial"[pt]
OR randomized[tiab] OR randomised[tiab] OR placebo[tiab] OR randomly[tiab] OR
trial[tiab] OR groups[tiab] OR "Epidemiologic Studies"[Mesh] OR "case-control
studies"[Mesh] OR "Cohort Studies"[Mesh] OR "case control"[tiab] OR Cohort[tiab] OR
"Follow up"[tiab] OR Observational[tiab] OR Longitudinal[tiab] OR Prospective[tiab] OR
retrospective[tiab] OR "cross sectional"[tiab] OR "Cross-Sectional Studies"[Mesh] OR
Investigated[tiab] OR Analysis[tiab] OR Statistics[tiab] OR Data[tiab] OR "statistics and
numerical data"[sh] OR "epidemiology"[sh])

NOT

(Animals[Mesh] NOT (Animals[Mesh] AND Humans[Mesh]))

NOT

(Injections[Mesh] OR Open-Label[tiab] OR "Product Labeling"[Mesh] OR "Drug
Labeling"[Mesh] OR "Affinity Labels"[Mesh] OR "Food Labeling"[Mesh] OR "Isotope
Labeling"[Mesh] OR "Staining and Labeling"[Mesh] OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling"[Mesh]
OR "Primed In Situ Labeling"[Mesh] OR Rat[ti] OR Rats[ti] OR Mice[ti] OR Mouse[ti] OR
Placebo[ti] OR "Drug effects"[sh] OR Drug[ti] OR Drugs[ti] OR "Food and Drug
Administration"[ti] OR "Food labeling"[ti] OR "Calorie labeling"[ti] OR Injection[ti] OR
Cigarette[ti])

Embase

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4 (((Health:ti,ab OR Illness:ti,ab OR Disorder:ti,ab OR Condition:ti,ab OR Disease:ti,ab)))
5
6 AND
7 (((Psychological:ti OR Label:ti,ab OR Labelling:ti,ab OR Labeling:ti,ab) AND
8 (Diagnosis:ti,ab OR Diagnostic:ti,ab OR Screening:ti,ab OR Screening:ti,ab OR
9 Screened:ti,ab))))
10
11 AND
12 (((Patient:ti,ab OR Patients:ti,ab OR Individuals:ti,ab OR Self:ti,ab OR Parent:ti,ab OR
13 Family:ti,ab OR Adult:ti,ab OR Men:ti,ab OR Women:ti,ab)))
14
15 AND
16 (((Attitude:ti,ab OR Awareness:ti,ab OR Stigma:ti,ab OR Beliefs:ti,ab OR Well-being:ti,ab
17 OR Wellbeing:ti,ab OR Meaning:ti,ab OR Impact:ti,ab OR Effect:ti,ab OR Effects:ti,ab OR
18 Influence:ti,ab OR Experience:ti,ab)))
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20 AND
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22 (((("Systematic review":ti,ab OR "Systematic Review":it OR "Cochrane Database Syst
23 Rev.jn" OR "meta analysis":it OR "meta analysis":ti,ab OR ((Search:ti,ab OR Searched:ti,ab
24 OR Searches:ti,ab) AND (PubMed:ti,ab OR Medline:ti,ab OR Database:ti,ab OR
25 Databases:ti,ab)) OR "randomized controlled trial":it OR "controlled clinical trial":it OR
26 randomized:ti,ab OR randomised:ti,ab OR placebo:ti,ab OR randomly:ti,ab OR trial:ti,ab OR
27 groups:ti,ab OR "Epidemiologic Studies" OR "case-control studies" OR "Cohort Studies" OR
28 "case control":ti,ab OR Cohort:ti,ab OR "Follow up":ti,ab OR Observational:ti,ab OR
29 Longitudinal:ti,ab OR Prospective:ti,ab OR retrospective:ti,ab OR "cross sectional":ti,ab OR
30 "Cross-Sectional Studies" OR Investigated:ti,ab OR Analysis:ti,ab OR Statistics:ti,ab OR
31 Data:ti,ab OR epidemiology:ti,ab)))
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33 NOT
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36 (((Injections OR Open-Label:ti,ab OR "Product Labeling" OR "Drug Labeling" OR "Drug
37 Therapy" OR "Affinity Labels" OR "Food Labeling" OR "Isotope Labeling" OR "Staining
38 and Labeling" OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling" OR "Primed In Situ Labeling" OR Rat:ti OR
39 Rats:ti OR Mice:ti OR Mouse:ti OR Placebo:ti OR "Drug effects.hw" OR Drug:ti OR
40 Drugs:ti OR "Off Label":ti,ab OR Food AND "Drug Administration":ti OR "Food
41 labeling":ti OR "Calorie labeling":ti OR Injection:ti OR Cigarette:ti)))
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PsychINFO

((Health.ti,ab OR Illness.ti,ab OR Disorder.ti,ab OR Condition.ti,ab OR Disease.ti,ab))

AND

((Psychological.ti OR Label.ti,ab OR Labelling.ti,ab OR Labeling.ti,ab) AND

(Diagnosis.ti,ab OR Diagnostic.ti,ab OR Screening.ti,ab OR Screening.ti,ab OR

Screened.ti,ab)))

AND

((Patient.ti,ab OR Patients.ti,ab OR Individuals.ti,ab OR Self.ti,ab OR Parent.ti,ab OR

Family.ti,ab OR Adult.ti,ab OR Men.ti,ab OR Women.ti,ab))

AND

((Attitude.ti,ab OR Awareness.ti,ab OR Stigma.ti,ab OR Beliefs.ti,ab OR Well-being.ti,ab

OR Wellbeing.ti,ab OR Meaning.ti,ab OR Impact.ti,ab OR Effect.ti,ab OR Effects.ti,ab OR

Influence.ti,ab OR Experience.ti,ab))

AND

((Systematic review.ti,ab OR Systematic Review.pt OR Cochrane Database Syst Rev.jn OR

meta analysis.pt OR meta analysis.ti,ab OR ((Search.ti,ab OR Searched.ti,ab OR

Searches.ti,ab) AND (PubMed.ti,ab OR Medline.ti,ab OR Database.ti,ab OR

Databases.ti,ab)) OR randomized controlled trial.pt OR controlled clinical trial.pt OR

randomized.ti,ab OR randomised.ti,ab OR placebo.ti,ab OR randomly.ti,ab OR trial.ti,ab OR

groups.ti,ab OR "Epidemiologic Studies" OR "case-control studies" OR "Cohort Studies" OR

case control.ti,ab OR Cohort.ti,ab OR Follow up.ti,ab OR Observational.ti,ab OR

Longitudinal.ti,ab OR Prospective.ti,ab OR retrospective.ti,ab OR cross sectional.ti,ab OR

"Cross-Sectional Studies" OR Investigated.ti,ab OR Analysis.ti,ab OR Statistics.ti,ab OR

Data.ti,ab OR epidemiology.ti,ab))

NOT

((Injections OR Open-Label.ti,ab OR "Product Labeling" OR "Drug Labeling" OR "Drug

Therapy" OR "Affinity Labels" OR "Food Labeling" OR "Isotope Labeling" OR "Staining

and Labeling" OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling" OR "Primed In Situ Labeling" OR Rat.ti OR

Rats.ti OR Mice.ti OR Mouse.ti OR Placebo.ti OR Drug effects.hw OR Drug.ti OR Drugs.ti

OR Off Label.ti,ab OR Food and Drug Administration.ti OR Food labeling.ti OR Calorie

labeling.ti OR Injection.ti OR Cigarette.ti))

Only

Cochrane

(((Health:ti,ab OR Illness:ti,ab OR Disorder:ti,ab OR Condition:ti,ab OR Disease:ti,ab)))

AND

(((Psychological:ti OR Label:ti,ab OR Labelling:ti,ab OR Labeling:ti,ab) AND

(Diagnosis:ti,ab OR Diagnostic:ti,ab OR Screening:ti,ab OR Screening:ti,ab OR

Screened:ti,ab))))

AND

(((Patient:ti,ab OR Patients:ti,ab OR Individuals:ti,ab OR Self:ti,ab OR Parent:ti,ab OR

Family:ti,ab OR Adult:ti,ab OR Men:ti,ab OR Women:ti,ab)))

AND

(((Attitude:ti,ab OR Awareness:ti,ab OR Stigma:ti,ab OR Beliefs:ti,ab OR Well-being:ti,ab

OR Wellbeing:ti,ab OR Meaning:ti,ab OR Impact:ti,ab OR Effect:ti,ab OR Effects:ti,ab OR

Influence:ti,ab OR Experience:ti,ab)))

AND

((("Systematic review":ti,ab OR "Systematic Review":pt OR "Cochrane Database Syst

Rev.jn" OR "meta analysis":pt OR "meta analysis":ti,ab OR ((Search:ti,ab OR Searched:ti,ab

OR Searches:ti,ab) AND (PubMed:ti,ab OR Medline:ti,ab OR Database:ti,ab OR

Databases:ti,ab)) OR "randomized controlled trial":pt OR "controlled clinical trial":pt OR

randomized:ti,ab OR randomised:ti,ab OR placebo:ti,ab OR randomly:ti,ab OR trial:ti,ab OR

groups:ti,ab OR "Epidemiologic Studies" OR "case-control studies" OR "Cohort Studies" OR

"case control":ti,ab OR Cohort:ti,ab OR "Follow up":ti,ab OR Observational:ti,ab OR

Longitudinal:ti,ab OR Prospective:ti,ab OR retrospective:ti,ab OR "cross sectional":ti,ab OR

"Cross-Sectional Studies" OR Investigated:ti,ab OR Analysis:ti,ab OR Statistics:ti,ab OR

Data:ti,ab OR epidemiology:ti,ab)))

NOT

(((Injections OR Open-Label:ti,ab OR "Product Labeling" OR "Drug Labeling" OR "Drug

Therapy" OR "Affinity Labels" OR "Food Labeling" OR "Isotope Labeling" OR "Staining

and Labeling" OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling" OR "Primed In Situ Labeling" OR Rat:ti OR

Rats:ti OR Mice:ti OR Mouse:ti OR Placebo:ti OR "Drug effects.hw" OR Drug:ti OR

Drugs:ti OR "Off Label":ti,ab OR Food AND "Drug Administration":ti OR "Food

labeling":ti OR "Calorie labeling":ti OR Injection:ti OR Cigarette:ti)))

CINAHL

((((TI Health OR AB Health OR TI Illness OR AB Illness OR TI Disorder OR AB Disorder OR TI Condition OR AB Condition OR TI Disease OR AB Disease)))

AND

((((TI Psychological OR TI Label OR AB Label OR TI Labelling OR AB Labelling OR TI Labeling OR AB Labeling) AND (TI Diagnosis OR AB Diagnosis OR TI Diagnostic OR AB Diagnostic OR TI Screening OR AB Screening OR TI Screening OR AB Screening OR TI Screened OR AB Screened))))

AND

((((TI Patient OR AB Patient OR TI Patients OR AB Patients OR TI Individuals OR AB Individuals OR TI Self OR AB Self OR TI Parent OR AB Parent OR TI Family OR AB Family OR TI Adult OR AB Adult OR TI Men OR AB Men OR TI Women OR AB Women)))

AND

((((TI Attitude OR AB Attitude OR TI Awareness OR AB Awareness OR TI Stigma OR AB Stigma OR TI Beliefs OR AB Beliefs OR TI Well-being OR AB Well-being OR TI Wellbeing OR AB Wellbeing OR TI Meaning OR AB Meaning OR TI Impact OR AB Impact OR TI Effect OR AB Effect OR TI Effects OR AB Effects OR TI Influence OR AB Influence OR TI Experience OR AB Experience)))

AND

((((TI "Systematic review" OR AB "Systematic review" OR PT "Systematic Review" OR "Cochrane Database Syst Rev.jn" OR PT "meta analysis" OR TI "meta analysis" OR AB "meta analysis" OR ((TI Search OR AB Search OR TI Searched OR AB Searched OR TI Searches OR AB Searches) AND (TI PubMed OR AB PubMed OR TI Medline OR AB Medline OR TI Database OR AB Database OR TI Databases OR AB Databases)) OR PT "randomized controlled trial" OR PT "controlled clinical trial" OR TI randomized OR AB randomized OR TI randomised OR AB randomised OR TI placebo OR AB placebo OR TI randomly OR AB randomly OR TI trial OR AB trial OR TI groups OR AB groups OR "Epidemiologic Studies" OR "case-control studies" OR "Cohort Studies" OR TI "case control" OR AB "case control" OR TI Cohort OR AB Cohort OR TI "Follow up" OR AB "Follow up" OR TI Observational OR AB Observational OR TI Longitudinal OR AB Longitudinal OR TI Prospective OR AB Prospective OR TI retrospective OR AB retrospective OR TI "cross sectional" OR AB "cross sectional" OR "Cross-Sectional Studies" OR TI Investigated OR AB Investigated OR TI Analysis OR AB Analysis OR TI Statistics OR AB Statistics OR TI Data OR AB Data OR TI epidemiology OR AB epidemiology)))

NOT

((((Injections OR TI Open-Label OR AB Open-Label OR "Product Labeling" OR "Drug Labeling" OR "Drug Therapy" OR "Affinity Labels" OR "Food Labeling" OR "Isotope Labeling" OR "Staining and Labeling" OR "In Situ Nick-End Labeling" OR "Primed In Situ Labeling" OR TI Rat OR TI Rats OR TI Mice OR TI Mouse OR TI Placebo OR "Drug effects.hw" OR TI Drug OR TI Drugs OR TI "Off Label" OR AB "Off Label" OR Food AND TI "Drug Administration" OR TI "Food labeling" OR TI "Calorie labeling" OR TI Injection OR TI Cigarette)))