An umbrella review of seamless pharmaceutical care activities

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Background Seamless pharmaceutical care aims at assuring continuity in healthcare provision, however actual activities that best achieve such continuity are not well defined.

Purpose To review the published systematic reviews and meta-analyses investigating the content and effect of activities aiming at assuring seamless pharmaceutical care.

Method Two independent reviewers will perform a literature search in Pubmed from inception until October 2017. We will search for systematic reviews and meta-analyses investigating the effect of activities aiming at assuring seamless care. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses which investigate activities performed by pharmacists at transitions of care will be included, regardless of setting or population investigated.

Findings The results will focus on investigating the content and effect of different pharmaceutical care activities at transitions of care, the different seamless care definitions used, healthcare staff that performed the activities, points of transitions analyzed, patient populations and settings of the studies.

Conclusion Our umbrella review protocol provides a robust method to systematically appraise the evidence in the field of seamless pharmaceutical care. This will yield important information on the content and effect of current activities aiming at assuring seamless care for patients. It will also help set the future research agenda in this field and guide the development of indicators and guidelines in seamless pharmaceutical care.