

NIHR Greater Manchester PSTRC

Plain English Publication Summary

Publication: [Visual impairment and medication safety: a protocol for a scoping review](#)

Publication details (Vancouver format)

Giles, S. J., Panagioti, M., Riste, L., Cheraghi-Sohi, S., Lewis, P., Adeyemi, I., Davies, K., Morris, R., Phipps, D., Dickenson, C., Ashcroft, D., & Sanders, C. (2021). Visual impairment and medication safety: a protocol for a scoping review. *Systematic reviews*, 10(1), 248.

What are the most important findings/conclusions in this paper? Why are they important?

There is very little research looking at medication safety for people with visual impairment. So the research that is available needs to be reviewed to help decide what needs more research. This will increase our understanding of the issues that visually impaired (VI) people face in relation to medication safety and will ultimately improve the quality of healthcare they receive.

What did you do?

We looked at research papers about visual impairment and decided that a review was needed to understand what the key issues are. This paper explains the methods we plan to use in the review and the reasons we have chosen to do what's called a 'scoping review', which is an informal way of reviewing research papers, rather than a more formal systematic review.

Why did you conduct this research?

We wanted to find out more about vision impairment and medication safety, which is currently an under-researched area. We decided to write a plan for the review of the current literature. This would help us to identify and analyse the research that has already been done, looking at the links between medication safety and visual impairment.

What was known before your paper was published?

A few years ago, the number of VI individuals in the UK was estimated to be around 1.8 million. People can be visually impaired from birth, or can become visually impaired during childhood, early adulthood, or later in life. People with visual impairment can receive unequal care compared to the rest of the population, and these are called 'health inequities'. They also have an increased risk for patient safety incidents, including a higher risk of experiencing medication errors compared to those without visual impairment. In view of this, this review aims to understand the issues of medication safety for VI people.

What is next? What is the potential impact of the work in this paper? What will change as a result of this paper (or the study it describes)?

The next part of this study is to do the review of the literature. This will be followed by some workshops which will help to develop some training which will raise pharmacists' awareness and empathy about the medicines-related issues people with vision impairment can face.

Does this paper link in to a particular study / project? If so, please summarise the study and explain how this paper has improved understanding, or will move the study forward.

NA