

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Table 1S. Scoping review search strategy

Search criteria (based on the Cochrane Collaboration's PICO criteria)	<p>Population: family or informal care givers in Africa</p> <p>Concept: primary research to explore the experience perspective, burdens, stress, and perspectives of informal caregivers</p> <p>Context: hospitals in Africa</p>
Search terms used for PubMed	<p>((((informal caregiver[Title/Abstract] OR family[Title/Abstract] OR relatives[Title/Abstract] OR spouse[Title/Abstract] OR guardians[Title/Abstract]) AND (hospital[Title/Abstract] OR clinic[Title/Abstract] OR healthcare facility[Title/Abstract] OR inpatient[Title/Abstract]))) AND (stress[Title/Abstract] OR burden[Title/Abstract] OR experience[Title/Abstract] OR distress[Title/Abstract] OR strain[Title/Abstract])) AND (Africa[Title/Abstract]))</p>
Search terms used for Web of Science	<p>((((AB=(informal caregiver OR family OR relatives OR spouse OR guardians)) AND AB=(hospital OR clinic OR healthcare facility OR inpatient)) AND AB=(stress OR burden OR experience OR distress OR strain)) AND AB=(africa))</p>
Search terms for EBSCOhost-linked databases	<p>AB (informal caregiver OR family OR relatives OR spouse OR guardians) AND AB (hospital OR clinic OR healthcare facility OR inpatient) AND AB (stress OR burden OR experience OR distress OR strain) AND AB Africa</p>
Databases searched	<p>Web of Science, Medline, SociIndex, Health Source, CINAHL, Africa-wide, Academic Search Complete and PubMed</p>
Limiters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peer-reviewed - English language

Table 2S: Characteristics of studies reviewed

Authors	Country	Care recipient	Definition of caregiver	Sample size	Age range and gender of caregivers	Health measure	Methods	Type of burden
Ndou et al	South Africa	Preterm babies	Biological Mothers	13	18 and 42 years	Preterm birth	Qualitative	Emotional
Anyango et al	Kenya	Children	Parents and guardians of children	62	Not stated	Leukaemia	Qualitative	Socioeconomic and psychological
El Malla	Egypt	Children	Mother, father, sister, grandmother	43	24 mothers and 9 fathers	Cancer	Qualitative	Psychosocial
Muliira et al	Uganda	Adult cancer patients	Spouse, child, sibling or parent	168	Not stated	Cancer	Quantitative	Physical and emotional
Sadigh et al	Uganda	Not stated	Close relatives or friends	100	The average age of informal caregivers was 37, and 71% were female	HIV/AIDS (21%) followed by severe hypertension (8%), diabetes mellitus (8%), congestive heart failure (7%), anaemia (6%) and stroke (6%). The remaining	Mixed methods	Economic and emotional

						44% included a variety of diagnoses.		
Akinpelu et al	Nigeria	Stroke survivors	Children, sibling and spouses of patients	50	Female (76%), male (24%), 54% of all respondents were 35 years and below	Stroke	Quantitative	Not stated
Akosile et al	Nigeria	Not stated	The primary caregiver was defined as the person (family or non-family member) spending the most time in providing daily care for the stroke survivor or the person taking on the main caregiving tasks	56	Caregivers (mean age = 28.2 ± 9.5 years) Female - 67.9%, Male 32.1%	Stroke	Quantitative	Emotional
Emanuel et al	Uganda	Not stated	Not stated	62	Age range: 15 and 70 years old; 56% were male, 44% female	End of life	Quantitative	Socioeconomic
Folashade et al	Nigeria	Not stated	Family caregiver (also known as informal caregiver) is a	12	Not stated	Surgical site infection	Qualitative	Socioeconomic

			relative or a friend who provides care for a sick member of the family either in the hospital or at home					
Hoffman et al	Malawi	Not stated	Parent, spouse, child, sibling and other relative were referred to as guardians (IC). Also, HG are "Hospital Guardians: family members, who live at the hospital for the duration of their patient's stay." (p. 74)	60 guardians	Not stated	Not stated	Mixed methods	Emotional
Mutanekelwa et al	Zambia	Not stated	Bedsiders are arbitrarily defined as the informal caregivers including family, relatives or	199	75,3% of the IC were females	Not stated	Quantitative	Socioeconomic

			friends for an in-patient of any hospital duration. Sibling, spouse, extended family, parent, neighbour and grandparent					
Nkuranyabahizi et al	Rwanda	Adults or paediatric patients with ESRD on haemodialysis in selected renal units	Parents, adult children, siblings and friends were used as IC.	12	Age range: 25 to 62 years. The presence of more female family caregivers than males was noted.	End Stage Renal Diseases	Qualitative	Psychosocial
Agbenyefia, G.	Ghana	Adult inpatients in female and male medical wards with serious health conditions; a lot of them did not know their medical condition.	Daughters, sons, mothers, spouses, siblings, and other relatives while only one was non-relative.	32	13 and 80 years; female (27), men (5)	Not stated	Qualitative	Emotional
Legese et al	Ethiopia	Not stated	"Informal caregivers are relatives, friends, or	143 informal care givers	80 (59.7%) female, 54(40.3%) male. 71(52.98%) of the respondents were	Not stated	Quantitative	Economic cost and burden

			neighbours who provide unpaid practical support for those in need of assistance"		between the age of 31 to 45 years.			
von Kaeppler et al	Tanzania	Femoral shaft fracture patients	"...We define informal caregivers (hereafter: "caregivers") as family, friends, neighbors, or others who provide support for dependents and receive no remuneration for the help they provide." (p. 135)	Forty-six patients were enrolled in the study, and 73 caregivers were interviewed from a total of 84 unique caregivers (86.9% interviewed)	The average age of caregivers was 33.3 years, and 44 (63%) were female	Traumatic injury: femur fractures	Quantitative	Economic
Kisorio	South Africa	End-of-life patients in ICU	Sibling, adult child, spouse, niece and parent	17	Not stated	End of life care	Qualitative	Not stated
Soderback	Mozambique	Children	Mother, grandmothers, sisters and father	100	Mothers (89%), grandmothers and sisters (11%), and one father. The family	Not stated	Quantitative	Not stated

					caregivers' age ranged from 15 to 54 years. The median age was 22			
Gwaza	Malawi	Acutely ill adult inpatients in male and female surgical wards	Guardians: being 18 years and above, looking after inpatients in the male or female surgical wards, being in the hospital with the patient for at least 24 consecutive hours and not more than 10 days, and those looking after stable patients	12	Spouse (5), parent (2), child (3), sibling (2)	Not stated	Qualitative	Physical, psychosocial and economic burdens
O'Neil et al	South Africa	Adult cancer patients	Spouse/partner child of patient; sibling and parent of patient	174 patients and caregivers	Not stated	Cancer	Quantitative	Physical and emotional
Alkali	Nigeria	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated	Mixed methods	Not stated