
Psychosocial working conditions and mental health of medical assistants in Germany: A scoping review.

Background:

Medical assistants (MFAs) represent one of the largest occupational groups in outpatient health care in Germany. Previous studies show that MFAs are exposed to high levels of psychosocial stress in the workplace. In contrast to other large occupational groups in health care (e.g., nurses and physicians), the working conditions and mental health of MFAs in Germany have only become the focus of research in recent years. Furthermore, the identification of studies among MFAs in Germany published in English is difficult due to the use of inconsistent English-language job titles. A scoping review on the working conditions and mental health of MFAs in Germany is lacking to date despite high practical relevance.

Objectives:

The existing research on psychosocial working conditions and mental health of MFAs in Germany will be systematically identified and presented in a scoping review.

Methods:

We will conduct systematic literature searches in the databases Medline, Scopus, CCMed and Google Scholar, for each of which search strategies will be developed. German-language as well as English-language quantitative and qualitative original studies within a period of 20 years (2002-2022) will be included. The identification of relevant studies will take place in a multistage procedure: First, two teams will screen title/abstract independently; consequently, two project members will independently conduct full text screening as well as extraction. The review is registered in the Open Science Framework (<https://osf.io/8sev4>) and the protocol written in accordance with the PRISMA-ScR (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses Extension for Scoping Reviews) guidelines.

Sponsor: BGW

Duration: 10/2022 - 09/2023

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