

## Background

While women's life expectancy is on average longer than men's in the UK, evidence suggests that women experience more ill health and disability throughout the life course. Reasons for this include women's underrepresentation in research, communication problems between healthcare professionals' (HCPs) and women, and issues with accessing appropriate services.

The purpose of this rapid evidence map (REM) was to identify the nature and extent of the UK and international literature, research gaps and priorities in the following topic areas: a) HCPs' communication with women about women's health and broader health issues; b) access to specialist healthcare; c) endometriosis; d) menopause; e) women's health and mental health issues; f) mental health issues with specific conditions, such as menopause or menstrual health.

## Methods

Separate searches were conducted for different topics (such as communication, access, endometriosis, menopause, and mental health) and combination of topics across four databases (MEDLINE, Embase, PsycINFO, CINAHL) with different date limits applied up to September 2022 for English language citations.

Relevant organisational websites and funding bodies were also searched for grey literature and new or ongoing funding calls. Abbreviated systematic mapping/scoping review methods were used to describe the nature, characteristics and volume of the available evidence. Title/abstract and full-text screening, and data extraction was conducted by one reviewer.

## Women's health and mental health; Mental health with specific conditions

### Results

#### HCP's communication with women

#### Access to specialist care

#### Endometriosis

#### Menopause

#### Mental health with specific conditions

#### Systematic and/or scoping reviews (including protocols)

	HCP's communication with women	Access to specialist care	Endometriosis	Menopause	Mental health with specific conditions
n=1	<b>Focus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endometriosis</li> </ul>	<b>Focus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cancer and screening</li> <li>HIV</li> <li>Mental health</li> <li>Maternal medicine</li> <li>Perinatal mental health</li> <li>Sexual and reproductive health</li> <li>No specific condition</li> </ul>	<b>Focus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical / surgical management</li> <li>Biology (molecular)</li> <li>Risk factors</li> <li>Comorbid conditions</li> <li>Pregnancy / Fertility</li> <li>Imaging</li> <li>Lifestyle interventions</li> </ul>	<b>Focus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hormonal, non-hormonal, homeopathic and alternative therapies</li> <li>Symptom prevalence</li> <li>Genitourinary symptoms</li> <li>Lifestyle interventions</li> <li>Factors affecting onset</li> </ul>	<b>Focus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General mental health</li> <li>Intimate partner violence</li> <li>Perinatal mental health</li> <li>PCOS</li> <li>Menstrual health specific mental health issues</li> </ul>

#### Primary research

n=9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breast cancer</li> <li>Gynaecological conditions</li> <li>Maternal medicine</li> <li>Perinatal mental health</li> <li>No specific condition</li> </ul>	Not searched	Not searched	Not searched	Not searched
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#### Research priorities

Not identified	Women's Health Wales Coalition	James Lind Alliance, NICE guidelines, Boivan et al. 2018 (Wales specific)	British Menopause Society & Women's Health Concern; NICE guidelines	Not identified
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#### Research gaps

<b>Lack of primary and secondary research</b> that explores or addresses communication between women and healthcare professionals within primary and secondary care settings	<b>Lack of secondary research</b> on access to services focusing on menstrual health, endometriosis, PCOS, menopause, minor gynecological procedures and pain management, heart conditions, autoimmune diseases, hypermobility spectrum disorders, myalgic encephalomyelitis, long COVID, fibromyalgia, skin conditions, or palliative and end of life care	<b>Lack of secondary research</b> on education and resources for HCPs to reduce diagnostic times and improve care; <b>Lack of primary research</b> on information, support interventions and tools for women with endometriosis to help symptom management and improve quality of life	Researchers in the field would like to see research conducted into different aspects of quality of life	<b>Lack of research recommendations and secondary research</b> that address mental health issues, and mental health issues with specific conditions, such as adenomyosis, fibroids, heavy menstrual bleeding and premenstrual dysphoric disorder
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## Implications

This REM can help guide researchers and funding bodies towards research priorities and gaps that can be beneficial to help achieve equity of care for women in the UK.

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