

## PRENATAL ATTACHMENT IN CLINICAL HEALTHCARE SETTINGS PROTOCOL FOR AN UMBRELLA REVIEW

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### INTRODUCTION

Prenatal attachment influences the experience of pregnancy, maternal health behaviours, and perinatal outcomes (1,2). However, conceptual, terminological, and methodological inconsistencies persist, with different definitions, instruments, and theoretical frameworks coexisting (1,2). In parallel, multiple reviews with distinct scopes have emerged, hindering an integrated understanding of the phenomenon within healthcare settings (2). Therefore, an umbrella review is warranted to critically synthesise the available evidence and support evidence-based clinical practice (3).

### OBJECTIVE

To critically synthesise evidence from reviews on prenatal attachment in healthcare settings, identifying concepts, associated factors, interventions, assessment instruments, and implications for clinical practice.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Umbrella review protocol, methodologically guided by the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) and reported according to the PRIOR Statement (3,4). The search will be conducted in PubMed/MEDLINE, CINAHL Complete, Scopus, APA PsycArticles, and grey literature sources, including reviews on prenatal attachment in healthcare settings. Study selection will be performed independently by two reviewers, with methodological appraisal using JBI instruments, followed by structured data extraction and narrative-conceptual evidence synthesis (3-5).

### REVIEW QUESTION

What review evidence is available on the characterization of prenatal attachment during pregnancy in healthcare settings?

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**Population:** Pregnant women at any gestational age; primiparous and multiparous women; biological pregnancies; singleton and multiple pregnancies.

**Concept:** Prenatal attachment and related concepts.

**Context:** Home, outpatient, and inpatient healthcare practice settings.

**Sources:** Systematic reviews, meta-analyses, integrative reviews, scoping reviews, concept analyses, qualitative reviews, and mixed-methods reviews.

### DATA EXTRACTION AND SYNTHESIS

Data will be extracted on:

Terminology & Concepts

Facilitators & Barriers

Assessment instruments

Professional interventions

Knowledge gaps

Clinical settings



Framework



Methods



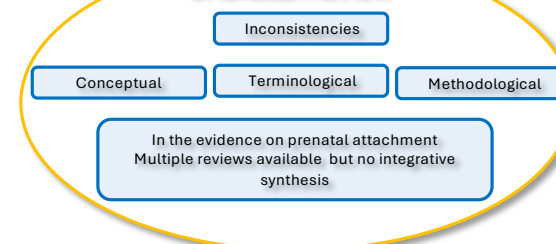
Process



Contribution



### UMBRELLA REVIEW



### EXPECTED RESULTS

This umbrella review is expected to critically synthesise evidence on prenatal attachment, clarifying concepts, assessment instruments, associated factors, and interventions, as well as identifying knowledge gaps and implications for clinical practice and future research.

### CONCLUSION

This umbrella review may contribute to a more integrated and critically informed understanding of prenatal attachment in healthcare settings, clarifying the current state of knowledge, its inconsistencies, and scientific gaps.

### IMPLICATIONS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE

The synthesis of evidence may support the identification of factors relevant to prenatal attachment, inform nursing interventions aimed at promoting the maternal relationship with the baby, and support maternal and obstetric healthcare that is more responsive to emotional and relational needs during pregnancy.