

## Improving First Nations Health Using Digital Health Technologies

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### **Background:**

Integration of digital health technologies in First Nations communities promises to enhance access to health services and improve health outcomes; however, little is known about the extent and impacts on First Nations health, especially following the pandemic. This study aims to synthesize published literature to determine what is known about the topic, and to understand the First Nations care experiences with digital health technologies and identify care gaps and areas for improving health care outcomes.

### **Research Questions:**

- 1) What is the role of digital health technologies in the care and communication for First Nations?
- 2) How do First Nations receiving care and healthcare professionals providing care with the support of digital health technologies describe their experiences?

### **Methods:**

A mixed methods approach will be used consisting of two stages. In stage 1, a scoping review based on the Joanna Brigg's Institute (JBI) methodology will be conducted and a review protocol will be developed and published to enhance rigor. Results will be reported following the PRISMA-ScR reporting guidelines. Findings will determine whether a systematic review is warranted and inform stage two of the research. Engagement of Indigenous communities will be initiated prior to stage two, to ensure interest and establishment of research partnerships and to follow the OCAP principles. Stage 2 will involve semi-structured interviews and the arts-based research method, digital storytelling.

### **Outcomes:**

Findings will serve to inform nursing education, practice, and policy relevant to First Nations access to care and the use of digital health technologies in their care.