

Blood Access in the Philippines: A Scoping Review Protocol

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Introduction

Eligibility Criteria

Search Strategy

Background

Timely, safe, and adequate blood supply is critical for lifesaving interventions in trauma, obstetrics, and major surgery. In the context of potential large-scale combat operations or mass casualty events, these requirements become even more apparent, as demand for blood products can exceed routine capacity. In the Indo-pacific, attention has turned to bolstering the trauma care capacity of partner nations such as the Philippines. In the Philippines—an archipelagic nation of over 7,000 islands—geographic fragmentation and systemic constraints challenge equitable delivery.

Review Question

What is the current state of infrastructure and supply for blood and blood products in the Philippines?

Objective

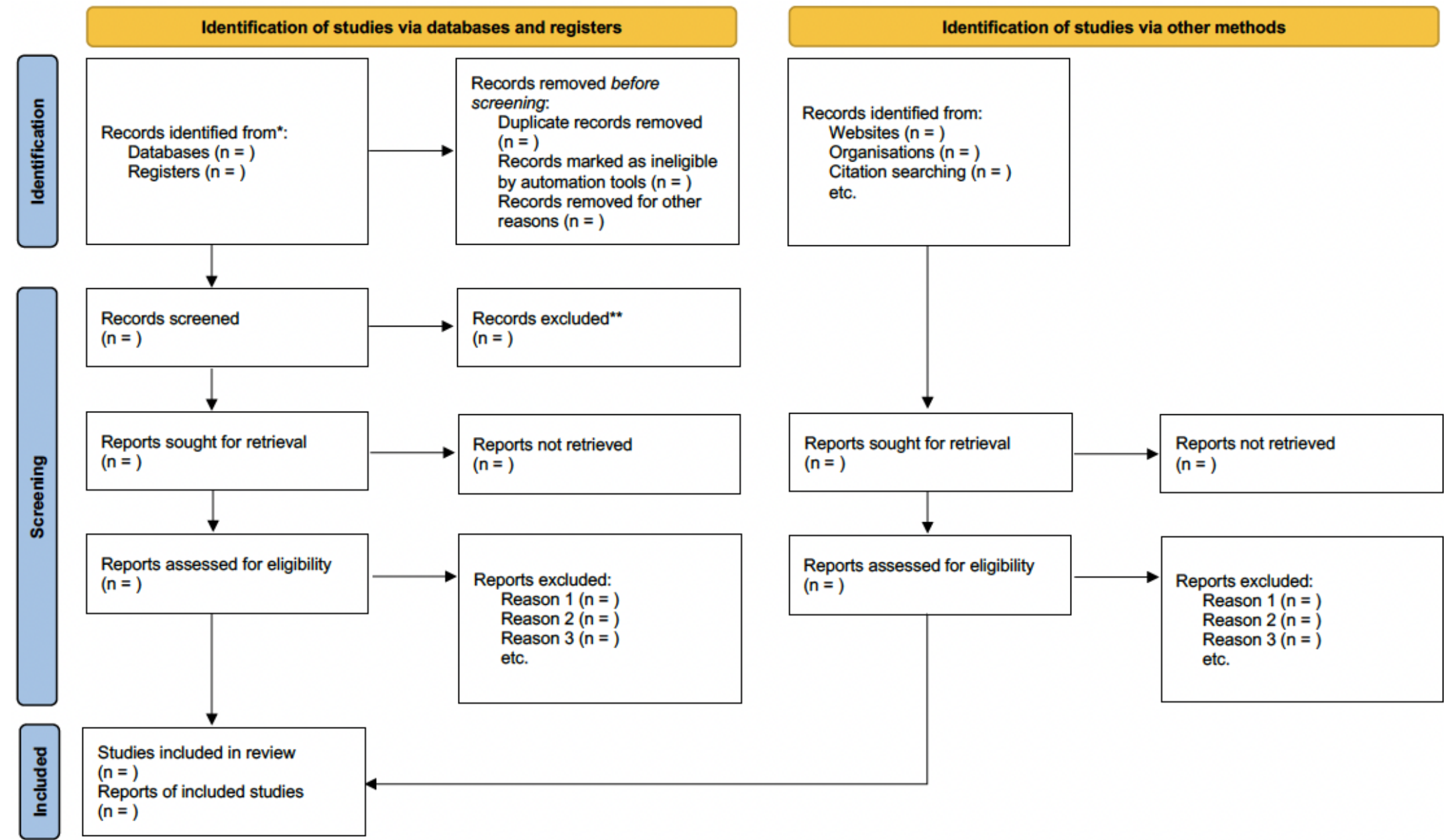
This scoping review aims to identify the current state of infrastructure and supply for blood products in the Philippines. It seeks to identify the barriers and facilitators to blood access and review the current blood access policies in the Philippines.



Methods & Analysis

This scoping review will be conducted in accordance with JBI methodology for scoping reviews. ^{1,2}

- A search strategy has been developed.
- The results of search and study inclusion will be reported in PRIMSA-SCR flow diagram.³
- Data extraction from papers will be performed by two reviewers. A third reviewer will resolve differences in reviewers.
- Summary of data will be summarized and key themes will be identified.
- A narrative thematic summary will accompany the presented results with literature gaps identified and recommendations for policy changes made.



References

References:

1. Peters MDJ, Marnie C, Tricco AC, et al. Updated methodological guidance for the conduct of scoping reviews. *JBI Evid Synth.* 2020;18(10):2119-2126. doi:10.11124/JBIES-20-00167
2. Lockwood C, Dos Santos KB, Pap R. Practical Guidance for Knowledge Synthesis: Scoping Review Methods. *Asian Nurs Res (Korean Soc Nurs Sci).* 2019;13(5):287-294. doi:10.1016/j.anr.2019.11.002
3. PRISMA. PRISMA 2020 flow diagram. PRISMA Statement website. Accessed March 10, 2026. <https://www.prisma-statement.org/prisma-2020-flow-diagram>

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The search strategy, including all identified keywords, will be adapted for each database and/or information source. The reference lists of all included sources of evidence will be screened for additional studies. The databases to be searched will include: OVID MEDLINE, EBSCO, Web of Science, ProQuest Health Medicine, (Cochrane Library), and global health databases.

The global health databases will be selected from: Global Health EBSCO, CABI Global Health database, ProQuest Research Library, PAIS International database, Global Health Observatory.

Additionally specific global health journals will be searched given the narrow scope.

- ❖ Global Health: Science and Practice
- ❖ Lancet Global Health
- ❖ Globalization and Health
- ❖ Global Health Action
- ❖ BMJ Global Health
- ❖ Global Public Health
- ❖ Annals of Global Health
- ❖ Global Health Promotion

Sources of unpublished studies, policies and grey literature will include: *Philippine Department of Health (DOH)*, World Health Organization/UN Documents, Philippine Red Cross + NGO/INGO documents* as well as consulting with our in country Philippine trauma experts.

Strengths and Limitations

Strengths:

- ❖ No prior scoping reviews of blood access in the Philippines. This will fill a knowledge gap regarding the barriers and facilitators to blood access there.
- ❖ Results may inform policies or areas that can be leveraged to improve blood access.

Limitations:

- ❖ Review has a narrow scope with a specific geographic area which may limit the findings.
- ❖ Primary team are not practicing in the Philippines, however have partnered with in-country researchers to understand cultural nuances.



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