

Covert administration of medication in nursing homes: A scoping review

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1. Problem

- Covert medication administration (CMA) = hiding medication in food to administer without the person's knowledge.¹
- A controversial, but common practice in nursing homes.
- Used to override medication refusal and manage disruptive behaviours, which raises several clinical, legal and ethical issues.
- The current state of knowledge about CMA is unknown.

2. Aim → To understand the nature and extent of current knowledge about CMA in nursing homes.

What is known about CMA :

1. Its characteristics ?
2. The experiences and perceptions of those involved ?
3. Its contributing factors ?
4. Its consequences ?
5. The reasons given for or against ?
6. Related recommendations/interventions ?

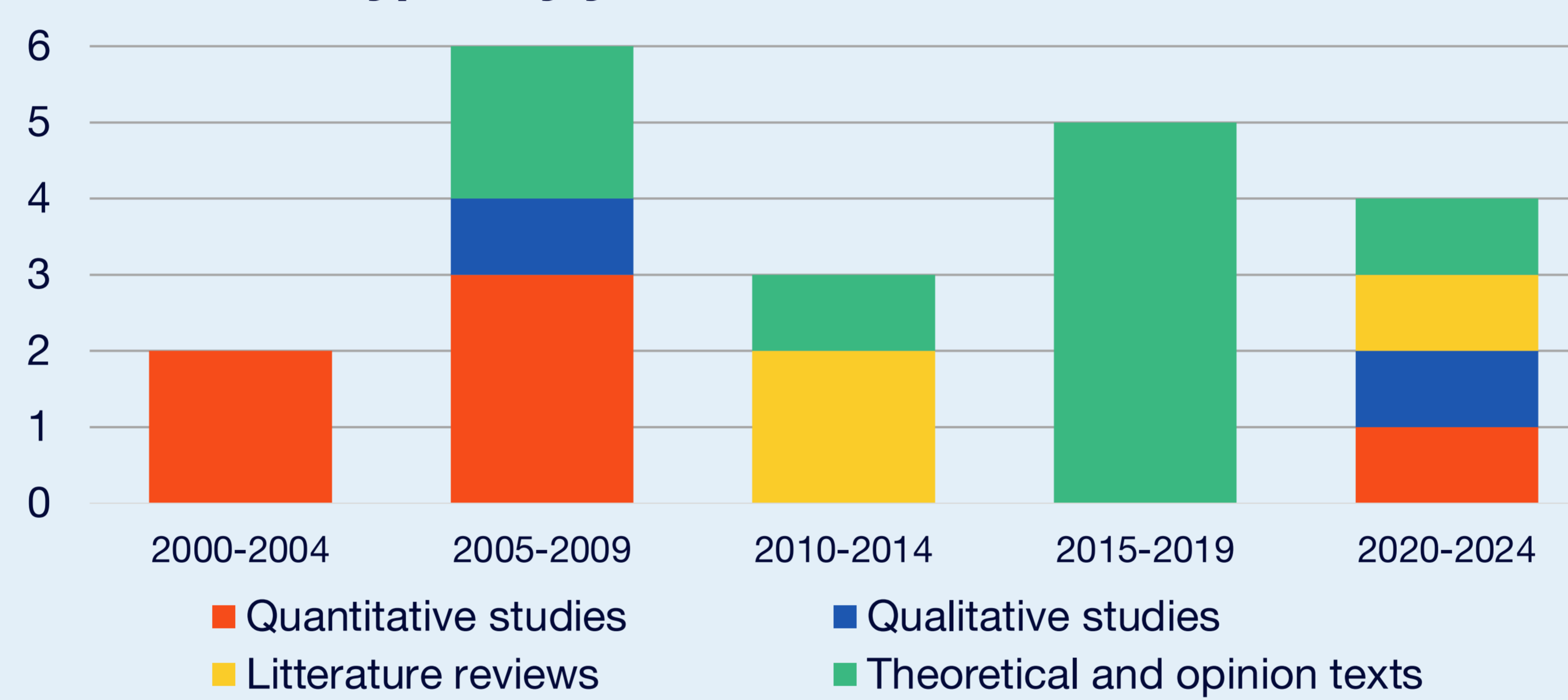
3. Method

SCOPING REVIEW²

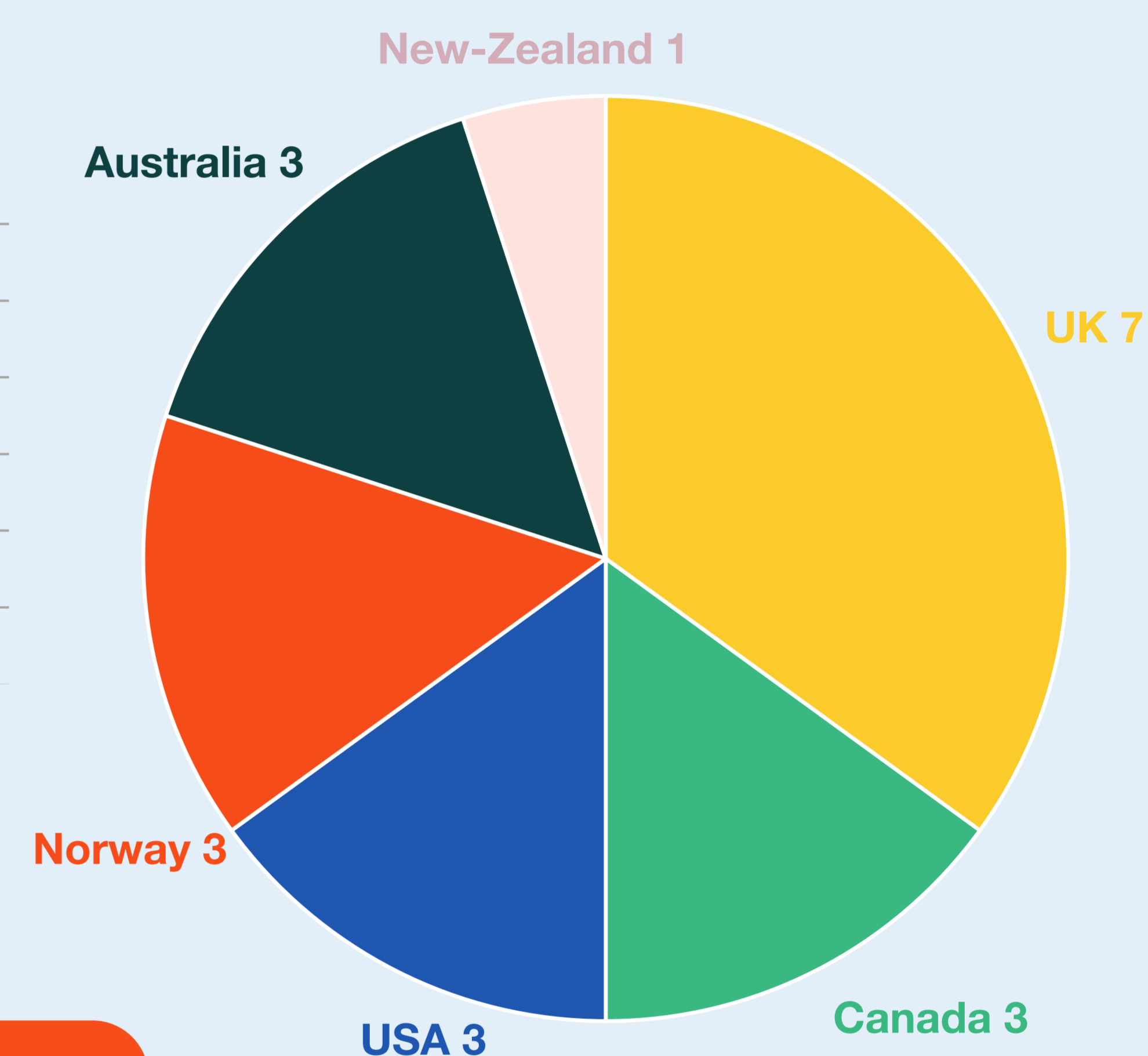
- **Sources :**
 - 5 Databases, grey literature, references and prospective search
- **Criteria (PCC) :**
 - **Population** → healthcare professionals, residents and/or informal caregivers
 - **Context** → nursing homes
 - **Concept** → CMA
- **Screening and extraction :**
 - Using *Covidence*
 - By two independent researchers in duplicate, with calibration
- **Analysis :**
 - Descriptive statistics
 - Conventional qualitative content analysis³

4. Preliminary results (n=20)

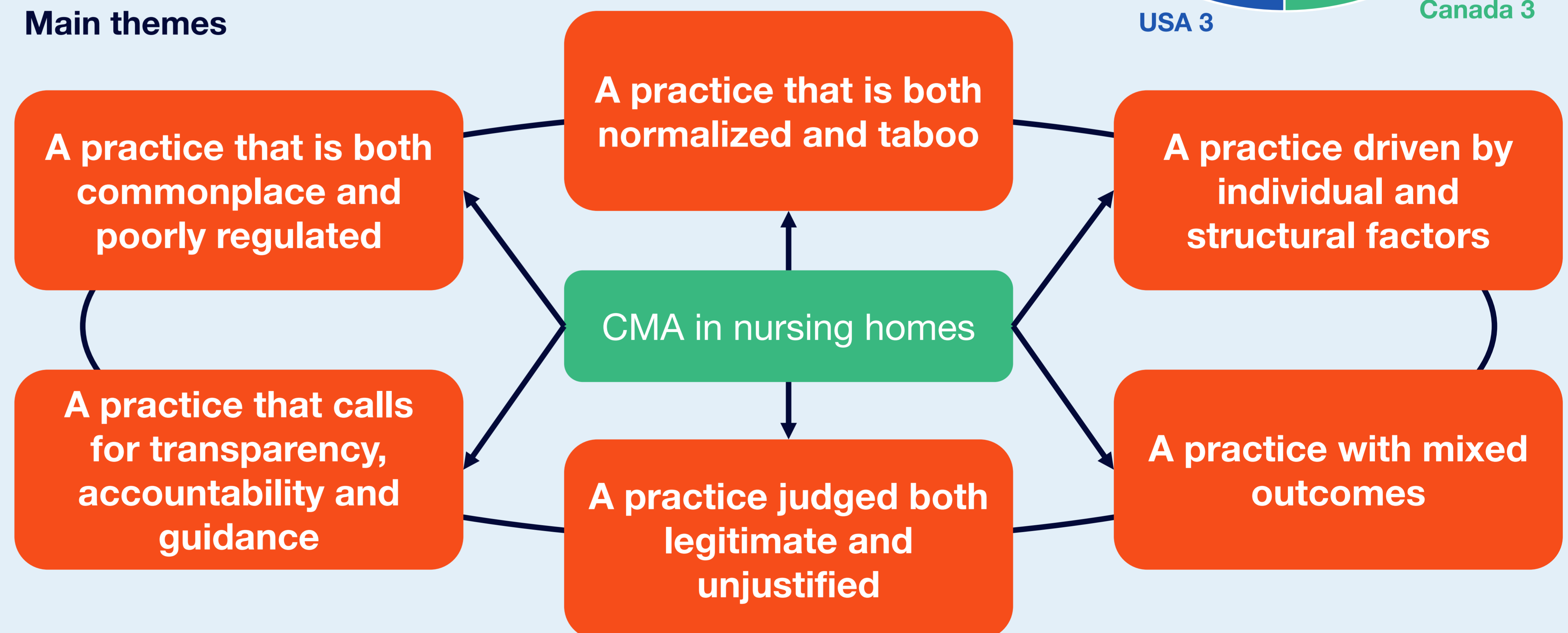
Publication types by year



Publications by country



Main themes



5. Conclusion

- Few publications exist on CMA, and even fewer address the experiences and perceptions of those involved. Most focus on description rather than recommendations.
- This review highlights the current knowledge and gaps in the literature on CMA and emphasises the need for a research agenda to explore this morally ambiguous practice.

Key references

1. Simpson C. Covering It Up? Questions of Safety, Stigmatization, and Fairness in Covert Medication Administration. *The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* 2017; 45: 204-211. DOI: 10.1177/1073110517720649.
2. Peters MDJ, Marnie C, Tricco AC, et al. Updated methodological guidance for the conduct of scoping reviews. *JBI Evid Synth* 2020; 18: 2119-2126. DOI: 10.11124/jbies-20-00167.
3. Hsieh HF et Shannon SE. Three approaches to qualitative content analysis. *Qual Health Res* 2005; 15: 1277-1288. DOI: 10.1177/1049732305276687.