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Use of Digital Literacy Programs for Older Adults

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this scoping review is to identify barriers and supports for pre-existing digital literacy programs for the older adult population. The digital divide impacts the older adult population to access online health information or find the benefits of technology. Occupational Therapy (OT) services can support education and training in digital literacy for older adults to increase self-efficacy with daily activities using technology

PIO: Does the use of technology education increase confidence in the navigation of technology devices in older adults 60+.

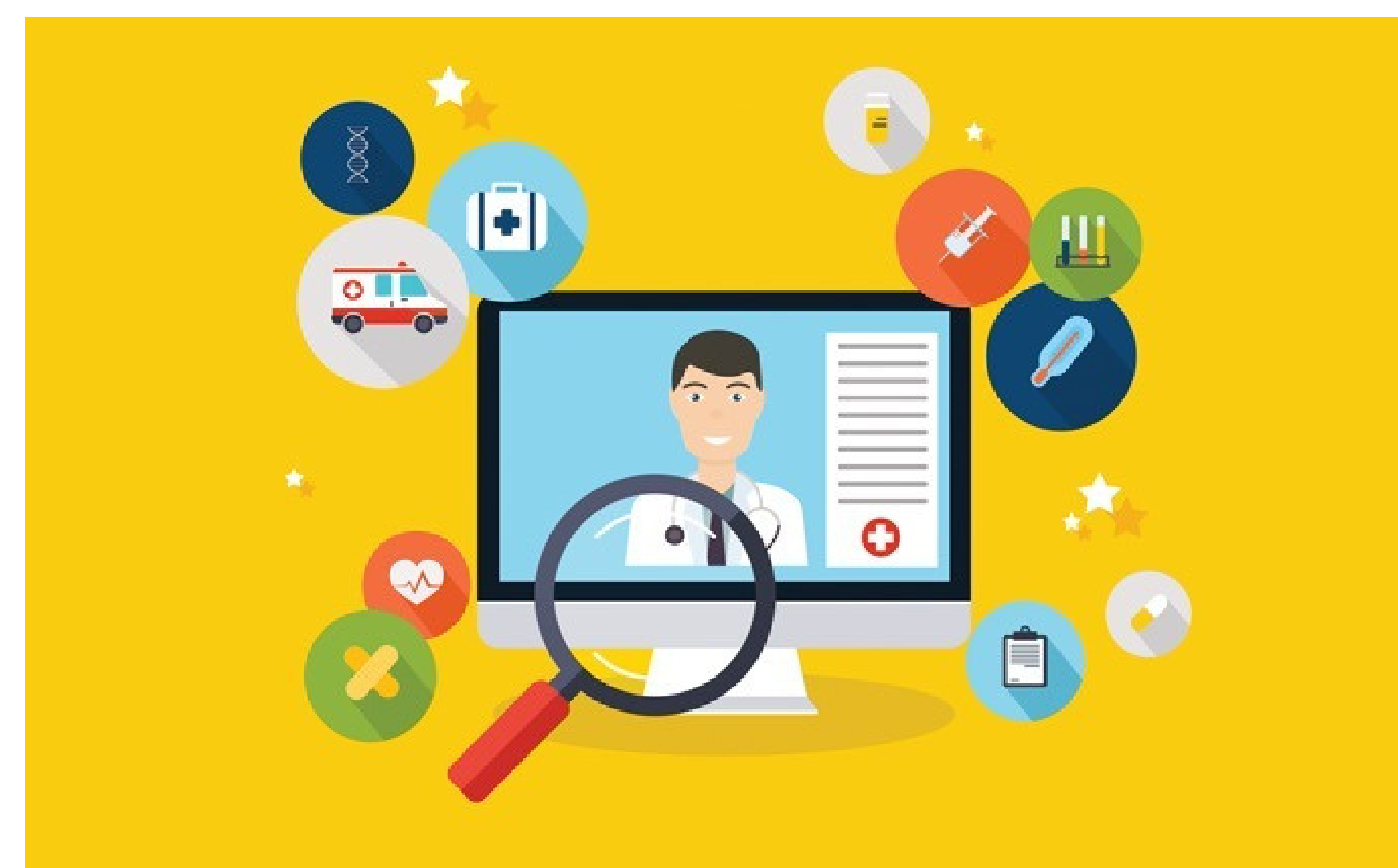
PURPOSE

Understand current literature regarding digital education programs and training to increase self-efficacy for the older adult population.

METHODS

Electronic Database Search: PubMed

Search terms: older adult OR geriatrics AND technology use OR mobile use OR mhealth information OR ehealth AND self-efficacy OR increased confidence



Inclusion criteria:

- Older adults 60+
- Digital literacy education intervention
- Telehealth or mobile health information
- Peer reviewed
- English

Exclusion criteria:

- Caregiver completes intervention
- Published prior to 2013

RESULTS

Level I	4 articles	(Wildenbos et al., 2018; Campanozzi et al., 2023; Kebede et al., 2022; Dong et al., 2023)
Level II	2 articles	(Chang et al., 2021; Tsai et al., 2016)
Level III	1 article	(Chang et al., 2022)
Level IV	3 articles	(Wu et al., 2015; Faieta et al., 2020; Lesauskaitė et al., 2019)

Common themes:

- Education increased knowledge on technology
- Limited hands-on use of technology
- The use of different scales to determine participants' usefulness and understanding of technology



CONCLUSION

- Training on different technology platforms to increase confidence in older adults
- Creating a universal intervention to provide the correct education for each older adult
- Taking education level and past careers into consideration prior to training

Future Focus:

- Gap in literature for establishing universal digital educational program for older adults
- Measurements of training program and effectiveness for the older adult population
- Understanding why the individuals need to use technology to gear the intervention to those reasons

Please see the handout for references:

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