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# Wearables Employment in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research

## [WEAR]

Development of Guidelines for Device Selection  
and Participant Protocols

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NIMLAS - 1/26/2024





**Increased prevalence  
of dementia  
and related  
caregiver strain**



**Challenges of  
conducting research  
with this population**



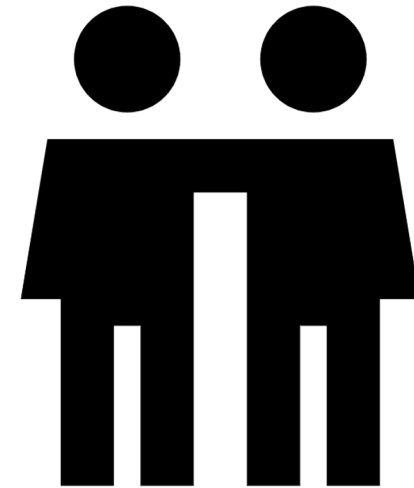
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**Evidence-based  
device selection  
and participant protocols?**





**Devices that meet  
participant needs and  
preferences**



# PROJECT OVERVIEW



**1**

**SYSTEMATIC REVIEW**  
Current state of usability and adherence factors

**2**

[Placeholder]

**3**

[Placeholder]

**4**

[Placeholder]

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## Inclusion Criteria

Included peer-reviewed, full-text research manuscripts and conference proceedings in English from 2018 and beyond

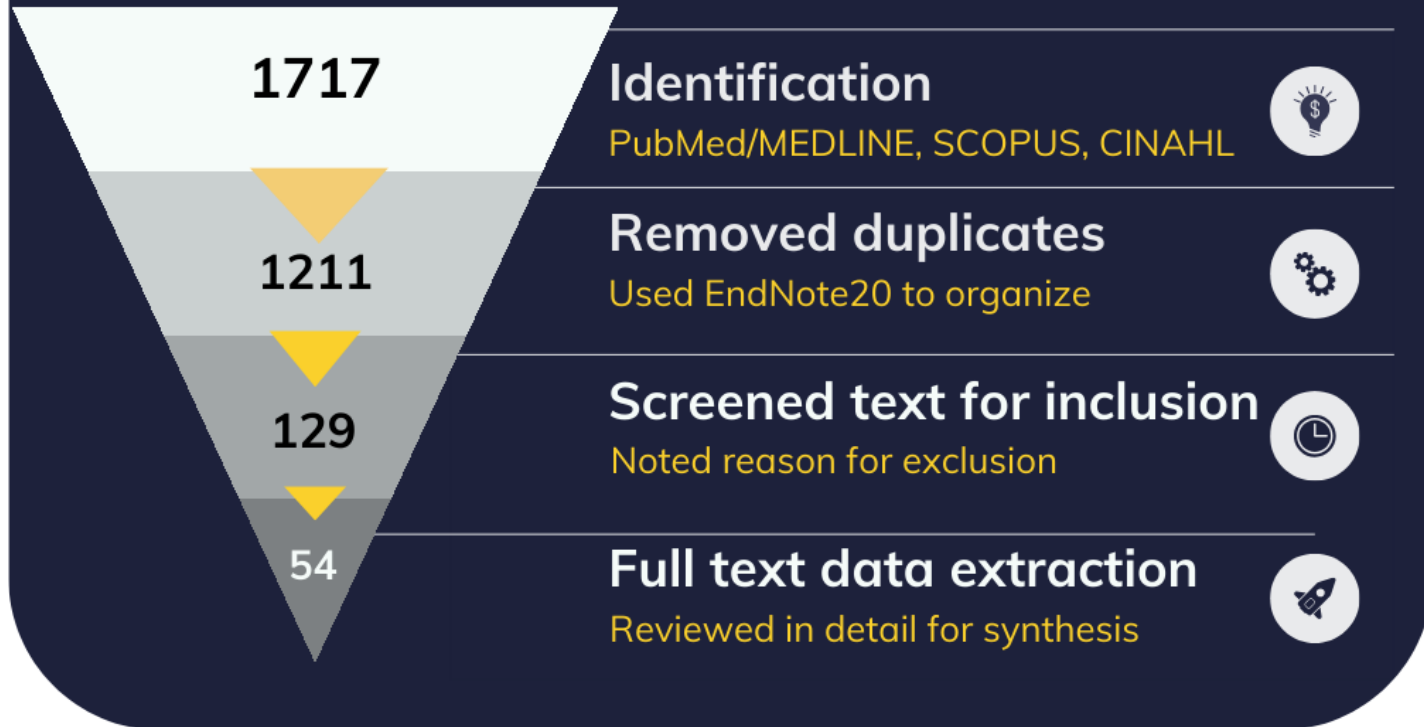
Regarding or using remote data collection via electronic devices worn by persons with a dementia in non-lab settings

Details on participant preferences, barriers, and facilitators to wearables device acceptability and use

Data could come from interviews, focus groups, survey results, process analyses, etc.

# Systematic Review Flow

PRISMA 2020 Guidance





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## Provide Personal Benefit

**Health insights were the top reason persons with dementia and their carers enroll and stay in wearable studies**

**Choose multifunctional devices with capacity for participants to monitor their data and offer ongoing access and feedback**



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## Consider Several Device Factors

**Choose comfortable, smaller, and lighter devices that fit into participant routines. Durability, water resistance, and long battery life are essential**



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## Privacy concerns outweighed by health access

Persons with dementia feel empowered over their health and engaged in the research

Carers want to balance safety and independence, reduce personal monitoring burden



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# PROJECT OVERVIEW



**1**

[Placeholder]

**2**

**DEVICE TESTING**  
In-house evaluation of available  
devices to meet research needs

**3**

[Placeholder]

**4**

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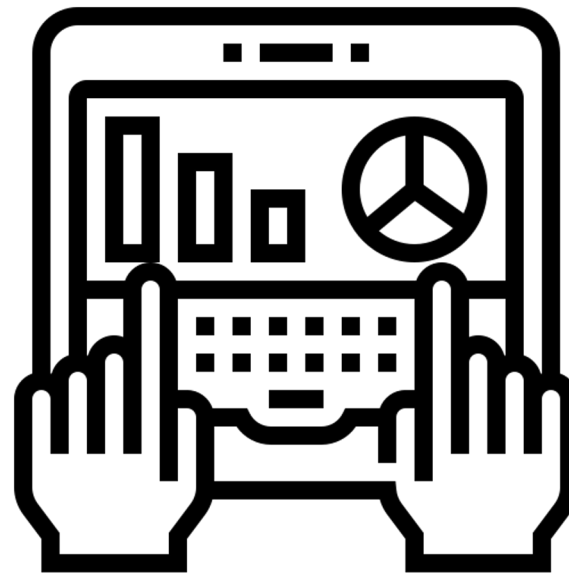
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## Wearables candidates

Participant preferences



Variety of forms and data targets



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## Wearables candidates

Full-featured smartwatches

Lightweight fitness tracker watches

Bluetooth tracking tags

Remote GPS trackers



## Example comparison

Device Class	Name	Manufacturer	App Name	Data Access	Data Location	3rd Party Options	Data Export
Lightweight Fitness Tracker Smartwatch	<b>Charge 5</b>	Fitbit	Fitbit App	Mobile Device, Web	Device, App, Cloud	API Access	From App
	<b>PulseHR</b>	WiThings	Withings Health Mate	Mobile Device or We	Device, App, Cloud	API Access + 3rd Party App Integration	From App
	<b>Viviofit 4</b>	Garmin	Garmin Connect	Mobile Device or Web	Device, App, Cloud	API Access	From App



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## Device choices



Garmin – Venu 2



WiThings - Pulse HR



AngelSense – SOS Button

# PROJECT OVERVIEW



**1**

[Placeholder]

**2**

[Placeholder]

**3**

## **PARTICIPANT STUDY**

Trial real world data quality and support needs

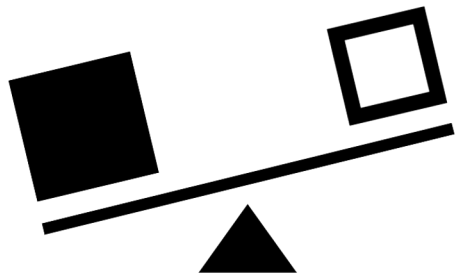
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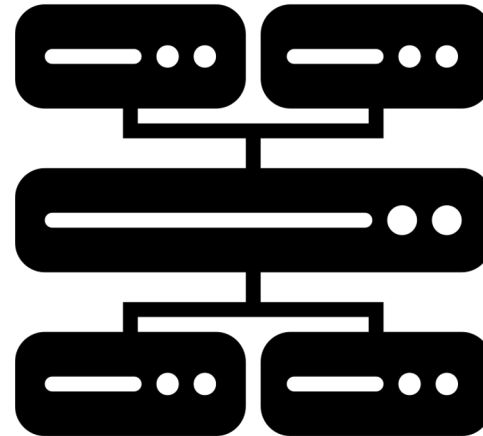
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## Study goals

Comparative insights into device (dis)advantages

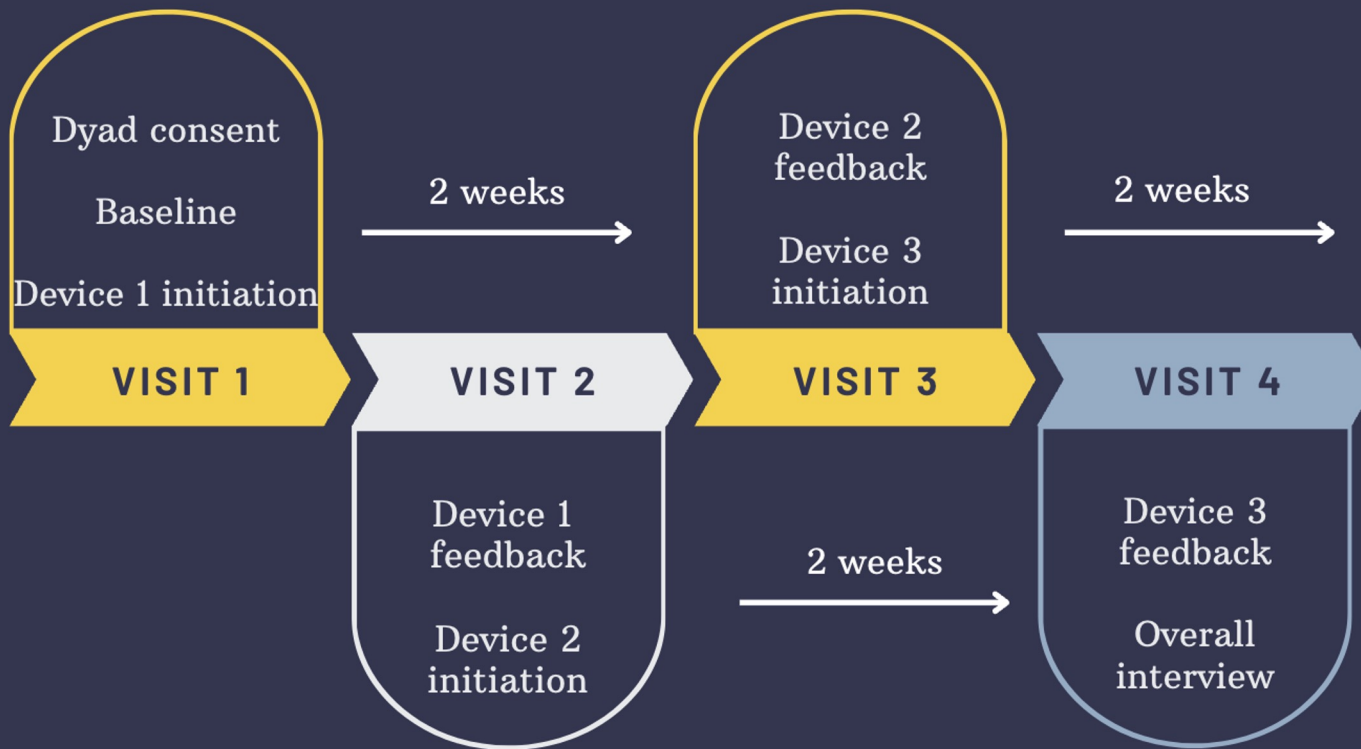


Adherence and support protocols



# Participant study design

3 randomized devices with 20 dyads



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## 12 enrolled participants

~50% female  
caregivers and PWML

CG: 64 yrs old (45-81)  
PWML: 73 yrs old (53-89)

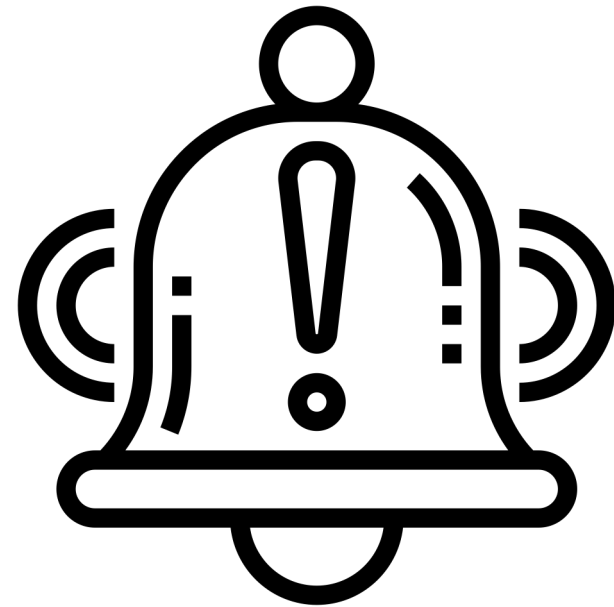
50% PWML formal dementia diagnosis

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## Results (preview)

Onboarding to personalize alert settings is important

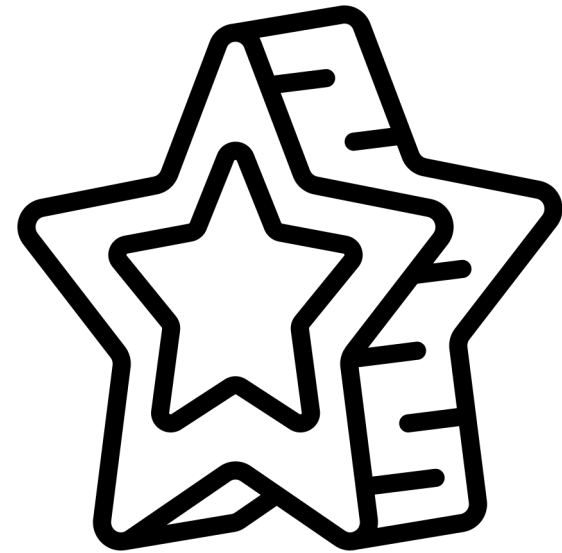


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## Results (preview)

**Most said easy to wear**

**Limited self-report of non-use**



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**TBD**

**Qualitative analysis of interview**

**Device quantitative comparison**





# PROJECT OVERVIEW



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**GUIDELINES**  
Describe device criteria and protocol methods to enhance research

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## Achieving the objective

Support superior long-term wearables research with dementia populations

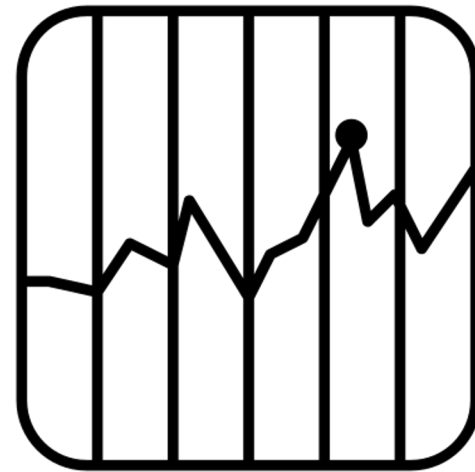
Inform longer-term usability and protocol testing matched to specific behavioral targets



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**Thank you!**

**Questions?  
Comments?**



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