TITLE/ABSTRACT SCREENING: Is the paper a review? Is it a single case study/series of rare syndromes or genetic variants? Is it a study consisting entirely of animals/cell lines/cell cultures/or telomere lengths measured from a source other than blood?

Yes - EXCLUDE

1a - Review
1b - Case study/series of telomere/subtelomere/telomere probe-diagnosed large genetic variants or other rare syndrome
1c - Other experiments using cell lines/cell culture/animals/telomere length not measured in blood & not classed as 1b

No - Is the study a cross-sectional study with a minimum age of >19 years (or mention of middle-aged/old aged participants?)

Yes - EXCLUDE (2 - Age not below 19 at baseline for relevant analysis)

No - Is the paper a conference abstract?

Yes - Is this population already included in a peer-reviewed article elsewhere amongst the previously retrieved results?

Yes - EXCLUDE (3a - Relevant conference abstract but study population already retrieved within results, or irrelevant abstract)

No - Search internet: is there an obviously relevant peer-reviewed article by the same group as the conference abstract, on the same population?

Yes - Add the retrieved peer-reviewed paper to the papers to be extracted, then EXCLUDE abstract (3c - Conference abstract, but relevant peer-review work found and to be added)

No - Passed to full-text screening

Yes - EXCLUDE (3b - Relevant conference abstract but no peer reviewed article available)