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Title: Effects of Social Networks and Caregiver Characteristics on Loneliness in Caregivers to Older Adults with Chronic Conditions

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Caregivers to older adults with chronic conditions may experience physical and mental health issues, such as depression and loneliness, due to the stressful nature of providing daily care. Loneliness levels also may be affected by caregiving characteristics (e.g., time spent on caregiving per week), as well as differing levels of social support. Yet, few studies have specifically examined the relationship between loneliness, caregiving characteristics and social support in caregivers to older adults with chronic conditions. Understanding the risk factors for loneliness among caregivers may provide insights into ways to improve caregiver well-being. This study aims to investigate differences in loneliness between caregivers and non-caregivers and associations with caregiving and social network characteristics. In this study, participants will include healthy adult caregivers and non-caregivers who will complete a series of measures assessing loneliness, social support, social networks and caregiving characteristics. This information will be used to map social networks, social interaction frequency, and examine relationships with loneliness among caregivers and non-caregivers.