



ME/CFS – the Severely and Very Severely Affected

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Message from the Guest Editors

“ME/CFS—The Severely and Very Severely Affected” is a proposed themed Special Issue of Healthcare concerning housebound and bedbound Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) patients. Our intent is to redefine ME/CFS as the serious disease that it is. Up to this point in time, all literature and case definitions of ME/CFS have excluded severely and very severely affected patients, and diagnosis, patient management, and case definitions have been based on the ambulatory ME/CFS patient. Although never formally studied, it is estimated that twenty-five percent of ME/CFS patients are either severely or very severely affected. What other disease’s diagnosis, patient care, and case definition exclude the most severely ill twenty-five percent?

We aim to document, describe, and promulgate what can and should be done for this hidden patient population. By focusing on the severely affected, it is our hope that the pathophysiological nature of the disease will be better accepted and understood, and effective methods of symptom reduction and patient improvement will be placed in the medical literature.

