

Special Issue

Utilizing Telemedicine as a Tool to Enhance Outcomes in Individuals with Chronic Respiratory Diseases

Message from the Guest Editors

The increased burden of increased morbidity, such as chronic respiratory disease, in the ageing population will undoubtedly burden healthcare systems even further; therefore, this calls for innovative approaches in order to achieve optimal medical care. One such approach under a chronic care model is telemedicine.

Telemedicine, which promotes interactions between patients and their families and healthcare providers, may enhance outcomes, while at the same time be more cost efficient. Examples of potential enhanced outcomes include: the provision of health care to patients who might not otherwise have access, better monitoring of disease state dynamics, such as vital signs, oxygen saturation, and weight in unstable patients with multiple morbidities such as COPD and heart failure; promoting better adherence to treatment algorithms through ongoing education; and early detection allowing for early (and more efficient) treatment of exacerbations. This paper summarizes the state of the science in telemedicine for chronic respiratory disease, supplemented by the expertise of authors experienced in the management of chronic respiratory disease.

Guest Editors

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