

Special Issue

Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Control in the Era of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Message from the Guest Editors

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has had major operational and organizational impacts on healthcare systems globally. Traditional infection prevention resources at the hospital level (infrastructure and personnel) have been largely diverted to help manage COVID-19 outbreaks at the health system level. Although this shift of resources has understandably taken immediate priority, it may have disrupted or even compromised conventional infection prevention duties (e.g., surveillance) in healthcare settings. On the other hand, infection prevention and control are playing a crucial role in the management of COVID-19, and a unique opportunity is arising to reevaluate and strengthen areas that may have been previously overlooked, and implement innovative approaches necessitated by the pandemic. This Special Issue seeks for original research papers, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses investigating potential implications or impacts (either negative or positive) of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare epidemiology and infection control, including changes in the epidemiology of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance in hospital settings.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (28 February 2022)



Medicina

an Open Access Journal
Published by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.4
CiteScore 4.1
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/64912

Medicina
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