Whole-Of-Hospital Infection Control: A Holistic Review Of Multidisciplinary Medical Department Practices And Patient Safety Impacts

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Abstract
Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) remain a major challenge to patient safety, care quality, and health system sustainability worldwide. While infection prevention and control (IPC) programs have traditionally focused on isolated clinical practices or single departments, growing evidence highlights the limitations of fragmented approaches. This review adopts a **whole-of-hospital perspective** to examine how coordinated practices across all medical and support departments contribute to effective infection control and improved patient safety outcomes. Using an integrative review methodology, relevant studies published in recent years were synthesized to explore multidisciplinary roles, organizational structures, and system-level enablers of hospital-wide IPC. The findings demonstrate that effective infection control is driven by the alignment of clinical care, diagnostics, medication management, environmental services, workforce training, governance mechanisms, and digital surveillance systems. Hospitals implementing integrated, multidisciplinary IPC frameworks consistently report reductions in HAIs, improved antimicrobial stewardship, enhanced safety culture, and better patient outcomes. The review underscores the importance of leadership commitment, shared accountability, and data-driven coordination in sustaining infection prevention efforts. This holistic synthesis provides a conceptual and practical foundation for healthcare leaders seeking to strengthen hospital-wide infection control strategies and advance patient safety.

Keywords: Infection prevention and control; Healthcare-associated infections; Multidisciplinary collaboration; Patient safety; Hospital systems; Quality of care; Integrated healthcare delivery

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) continue to represent one of the most persistent threats to patient safety, quality of care, and health system sustainability worldwide. Despite advances in clinical practice, diagnostics, and antimicrobial therapy, HAIs remain a leading cause of prolonged hospital stays, increased morbidity and mortality, and escalating healthcare costs. Global estimates indicate that millions of patients are affected annually, with a disproportionate burden observed in acute care hospitals where complex procedures, invasive devices, and vulnerable patient populations converge (Allegranzi et al., 2016; Haque et al., 2018).

Traditionally, infection prevention and control (IPC) efforts have been conceptualized as the responsibility of specific units or specialized teams, often centered on nursing practice, infection control departments, or isolated clinical protocols. While these approaches have contributed to measurable improvements, evidence increasingly suggests that fragmented, department-specific strategies are insufficient to address the multifactorial and system-wide nature of infection transmission within hospitals. Pathogens move across departmental boundaries through patient flow, healthcare workers, equipment, diagnostics, medications, and environmental interfaces, highlighting the need for integrated, hospital-wide solutions (Mitchell et al., 2020).

In response to these challenges, international organizations such as the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have emphasized multimodal and systems-based IPC strategies. These frameworks advocate for leadership engagement, workforce education, standardized guidelines, surveillance systems, and continuous quality improvement across all hospital functions rather than isolated interventions. However, despite the availability of such guidance, implementation remains uneven, and many healthcare facilities continue to struggle with translating policy recommendations into coordinated, multidisciplinary practice (WHO, 2016; CDC, 2022).

Recent literature has begun to shift toward a broader conceptualization of infection control as a shared organizational responsibility embedded within hospital governance, safety culture, and operational workflows. Studies demonstrate that effective IPC requires the active involvement of clinical departments, diagnostic services, pharmacy, environmental and support services, information technology units, and hospital administration working within a unified framework (Zingg et al., 2019; Storr et al., 2021). Hospitals adopting integrated approaches report more sustainable reductions in HAIs, improved antimicrobial stewardship, and enhanced patient trust and safety culture.

Despite these advances, existing reviews often focus on single departments or specific interventions, leaving a gap in comprehensive syntheses that examine IPC from a whole-of-hospital perspective. Addressing this gap, the present review aims to consolidate current evidence on multidisciplinary medical department practices in infection control and to examine their collective impact on patient safety outcomes. By adopting a holistic lens, this review seeks to inform healthcare leaders, policymakers, and practitioners on how integrated, system-level IPC strategies can strengthen hospital performance and protect patient safety.

REVIEW METHODOLOGY

This review adopted an **integrative review design** to comprehensively synthesize empirical evidence on whole-of-hospital infection prevention and control (IPC) practices and their impact on patient safety outcomes. An integrative approach was selected to allow the inclusion of diverse study designs, including randomized controlled trials, quasi-

experimental studies, observational studies, qualitative research, and evidence-based guidelines, thereby capturing the multifaceted and system-level nature of hospital-wide IPC. A systematic literature search was conducted across major electronic databases, including PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, and CINAHL. Searches were limited to peer-reviewed articles published in English between 2016 and 2024 to ensure relevance to contemporary healthcare systems and infection control standards. Key search terms and Boolean combinations included *infection prevention and control*, *healthcare-associated infections*, *multidisciplinary*, *hospital-wide*, *medical departments*, *patient safety*, and *integrated healthcare systems*. Reference lists of eligible articles were also manually screened to identify additional relevant studies.

Inclusion criteria comprised studies examining infection control interventions, practices, or governance models involving multiple hospital departments or system-level coordination, with reported outcomes related to HAIs, antimicrobial resistance, patient safety, or healthcare quality. Studies focusing exclusively on single-department interventions without cross-departmental relevance were excluded, as were conference abstracts, editorials, and non-peer-reviewed reports.

Study selection followed a two-stage screening process. Titles and abstracts were independently reviewed to assess eligibility, followed by full-text screening of shortlisted articles. Methodological quality was appraised using appropriate critical appraisal tools aligned with study design, such as the Joanna Briggs Institute checklists. Data extraction focused on study characteristics, departmental involvement, IPC components, implementation strategies, and reported patient safety outcomes. Extracted data were synthesized narratively, with findings organized thematically to support an integrated understanding of whole-of-hospital infection control practices.

Multidisciplinary Medical Department Roles in Infection Control

Effective infection prevention and control (IPC) is increasingly recognized as a **shared, hospital-wide responsibility** that extends beyond isolated clinical units. The transmission of infectious agents within hospitals occurs through complex interactions among patients, healthcare workers, diagnostic processes, medications, medical devices, and the care environment. Consequently, sustainable reductions in healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) depend on the coordinated engagement of all medical and support departments working within an integrated IPC framework.

Clinical care departments represent the frontline of infection control implementation. Evidence consistently highlights the critical role of adherence to standard and transmission-based precautions, including hand hygiene, aseptic technique, isolation practices, and appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE). High levels of compliance across inpatient, outpatient, emergency, and procedural care settings are strongly associated with lower HAI rates and improved patient safety outcomes (Allegranzi et al., 2016; Storr et al., 2021). Importantly, clinical effectiveness is enhanced when infection control practices are standardized across departments and supported by consistent training and audit-feedback mechanisms.

Diagnostic services play a pivotal role in IPC by enabling early detection and accurate identification of infectious agents. Timely laboratory testing, adherence to biosafety standards, and rapid communication of results support appropriate isolation decisions and targeted antimicrobial therapy. Studies demonstrate that delays or inaccuracies in diagnostics contribute to unnecessary antimicrobial exposure and increased transmission risk, underscoring the importance of integrated diagnostic workflows within hospital-wide IPC programs (Zingg et al., 2019). Similarly, imaging and procedural support services

influence infection risks through equipment sterilization, scheduling practices, and patient flow coordination.

Medication management functions, particularly antimicrobial stewardship activities, are essential components of multidisciplinary infection control. Coordinated efforts among prescribers, pharmacists, and infection control teams help optimize antimicrobial use, reduce resistance, and prevent opportunistic infections. Systematic reviews report that hospitals with robust, interdisciplinary stewardship programs achieve significant reductions in antimicrobial consumption, Clostridioides difficile infections, and resistance rates (Baur et al., 2017; Davey et al., 2017). These outcomes are strongest when stewardship is embedded within broader hospital governance structures rather than operating as a standalone initiative.

Environmental and support service departments are equally integral to IPC effectiveness. Environmental cleaning, waste management, linen handling, ventilation systems, and water safety all directly influence pathogen persistence and transmission within healthcare facilities. Evidence indicates that enhanced environmental hygiene programs, supported by standardized protocols and performance monitoring, are associated with measurable reductions in environmental contamination and HAIs (Mitchell et al., 2020). Coordination between environmental services and clinical teams ensures that cleaning practices align with patient care activities and infection risk profiles.

Administrative and governance structures provide the foundation for sustained multidisciplinary IPC. Leadership commitment, clear accountability, adequate resource allocation, and organizational policies enable departments to function cohesively. Hospitals that integrate infection control into quality management systems and safety governance frameworks demonstrate stronger compliance, improved safety culture, and more resilient responses to emerging infectious threats (Storr et al., 2021; Mitchell et al., 2020). In this context, infection control becomes embedded in routine operational decision-making rather than treated as an isolated clinical obligation.

Digital health and information systems further enhance multidisciplinary coordination by supporting surveillance, reporting, and real-time feedback. Integrated electronic health records, infection surveillance platforms, and audit dashboards facilitate communication across departments and enable data-driven IPC interventions. Studies show that digital surveillance tools improve early outbreak detection and support proactive, system-wide responses to infection risks (Zingg et al., 2019).

Table 1. Multidisciplinary Medical Department Roles in Hospital Infection Control

Departmental Domain	**Key Infection Control Responsibilities**	**Impact on Patient Safety**
Clinical care services	Hand hygiene, PPE use, isolation, aseptic procedures	Reduced HAIs and cross-transmission
Diagnostic services	Accurate testing, biosafety, timely result reporting	Early detection and targeted treatment
Medication management	Antimicrobial stewardship, medication safety	Reduced resistance and infection complications
Environmental services	Cleaning, waste management, ventilation	Lower environmental contamination
Administrative leadership	Policy enforcement, training, governance	Improved compliance and safety culture
Digital health systems	Surveillance, audit-feedback, data integration	Early outbreak detection and system coordination

Together, these findings underscore that effective infection control emerges not from individual departmental efforts, but from **coordinated, multidisciplinary engagement** across the hospital ecosystem. Aligning clinical practice, diagnostics, medication management, environmental services, governance, and digital infrastructure is essential for achieving sustainable patient safety improvements.

Impact of Integrated Infection Control on Patient Safety Outcomes

Integrated infection prevention and control (IPC) approaches have demonstrated substantial benefits for patient safety outcomes across diverse healthcare settings. Unlike fragmented or department-specific initiatives, hospital-wide IPC frameworks align clinical, diagnostic, environmental, administrative, and digital functions, enabling coordinated responses to infection risks throughout the patient care continuum. The evidence consistently shows that such integration is associated with improved clinical outcomes, enhanced care quality, and strengthened patient safety culture.

One of the most consistently reported impacts of integrated IPC is the **reduction in healthcare-associated infection (HAI) rates**. Multidisciplinary IPC programs that combine standardized clinical precautions, effective environmental hygiene, antimicrobial stewardship, and real-time surveillance have been shown to significantly decrease the incidence of bloodstream infections, surgical site infections, ventilator-associated pneumonia, and catheter-associated urinary tract infections. System-level analyses indicate that hospitals adopting coordinated IPC strategies achieve more sustained reductions in HAIs compared with facilities relying on isolated interventions (Allegranzi et al., 2016; Zingg et al., 2019).

Integrated IPC also plays a critical role in **controlling antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**. By linking diagnostic accuracy, prescribing practices, pharmacy oversight, and infection surveillance, hospitals can optimize antimicrobial use and reduce unnecessary exposure. Evidence from large-scale reviews demonstrates that multidisciplinary antimicrobial stewardship embedded within hospital-wide IPC frameworks leads to lower resistance rates, reduced incidence of Clostridioides difficile infections, and improved therapeutic effectiveness (Baur et al., 2017; Davey et al., 2017). These outcomes are particularly important given the global rise of multidrug-resistant organisms and their implications for patient morbidity and mortality.

Beyond infection-specific outcomes, integrated IPC has a measurable impact on **broader patient safety indicators**, including length of hospital stay, readmission rates, and in-hospital mortality. Studies report that effective IPC coordination reduces infection-related complications, resulting in shorter hospitalizations and decreased need for intensive or prolonged care (Haque et al., 2018; Mitchell et al., 2020). From a systems perspective, these improvements translate into enhanced patient flow, reduced bed occupancy pressures, and improved care continuity.

Integrated infection control frameworks also contribute to the development of a **strong patient safety culture**. Hospitals that emphasize shared accountability, leadership engagement, and cross-departmental collaboration demonstrate higher compliance with safety protocols and greater staff awareness of infection risks. This cultural shift supports proactive risk identification and encourages reporting and learning from infection-related incidents, further strengthening patient safety performance (Storr et al., 2021).

Importantly, integrated IPC positively influences **patient experience and trust**. Reductions in infection rates, visible hygiene practices, and transparent communication regarding safety measures are associated with higher patient satisfaction and confidence in healthcare services. These outcomes reinforce the ethical and professional obligation to provide safe care and align infection control efforts with patient-centered care principles.

Table 2. Patient Safety Outcomes Associated with Integrated Infection Control Approaches

Patient Safety Outcome	Reported Impact of Integrated IPC
Healthcare-associated infection rates	Significant and sustained reduction
Antimicrobial resistance	Improved control and reduced resistance trends
Length of hospital stay	Shortened due to fewer complications
Infection-related mortality	Decreased across acute care settings
Patient safety culture	Improved compliance and staff engagement
Patient satisfaction	Increased trust and perceived care quality

Overall, the evidence indicates that integrated, whole-of-hospital IPC approaches generate multidimensional patient safety benefits. By addressing infection risks through coordinated clinical practice, governance, workforce engagement, and digital surveillance, hospitals are better positioned to achieve sustainable improvements in safety, quality, and outcomes.

Organizational, Digital, and Workforce Enablers

Sustained success of integrated infection prevention and control (IPC) depends not only on clinical and technical interventions but also on the presence of strong **organizational, digital, and workforce enablers**. These enablers create the conditions under which multidisciplinary infection control practices can be effectively implemented, coordinated, and continuously improved across the whole hospital.

At the organizational level, **leadership commitment and governance structures** are foundational to hospital-wide IPC effectiveness. Evidence shows that hospitals with clearly defined IPC governance frameworks—embedded within quality and patient safety systems—demonstrate higher compliance with infection control standards and more consistent outcomes. Executive leadership engagement signals organizational priority, ensures resource allocation, and establishes accountability mechanisms that align departmental activities with IPC goals (Storr et al., 2021). Integration of IPC indicators into institutional performance dashboards further reinforces shared responsibility and supports continuous monitoring and improvement.

Policy alignment and standardization also play a critical role. Organization-wide protocols for hand hygiene, isolation precautions, environmental cleaning, and outbreak management reduce variation in practice and support coordinated implementation across departments. International guidance from organizations such as the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphasizes multimodal strategies that integrate guidelines, training, monitoring, and feedback at the system level rather than relying on isolated interventions (WHO, 2016; CDC, 2022).

Digital health infrastructure is a key enabler of integrated IPC. **Electronic health records (EHRs)**, infection surveillance systems, and laboratory information systems facilitate real-time data sharing across clinical, diagnostic, pharmacy, and infection control teams. Studies indicate that digital surveillance tools improve early detection of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), support rapid outbreak response, and enhance antimicrobial stewardship decision-making (Zingg et al., 2019). When digital systems are interoperable and accessible across departments, they enable proactive risk identification and coordinated responses, strengthening hospital resilience to infectious threats.

Audit and feedback mechanisms supported by digital platforms further enhance performance. Automated reporting of compliance indicators—such as hand hygiene adherence or antimicrobial use—provides actionable insights for frontline staff and managers. Evidence suggests that regular feedback combined with leadership support leads to sustained behavioral change and improved IPC outcomes (Mitchell et al., 2020).

The **healthcare workforce** represents another critical pillar of integrated infection control. Continuous education, competency-based training, and role clarity are essential to ensure that all staff understand their responsibilities within the IPC framework. Multidisciplinary training initiatives promote shared understanding of infection risks and encourage collaboration across professional boundaries. Studies highlight that hospitals investing in workforce development and fostering a strong safety culture achieve better adherence to IPC practices and lower infection rates (Storr et al., 2021).

Workforce engagement is closely linked to organizational culture. Environments that encourage reporting of infection risks, learning from incidents, and interprofessional collaboration support proactive infection control behaviors. This cultural dimension reinforces the technical and organizational elements of IPC, enabling sustainable, system-wide improvements in patient safety.

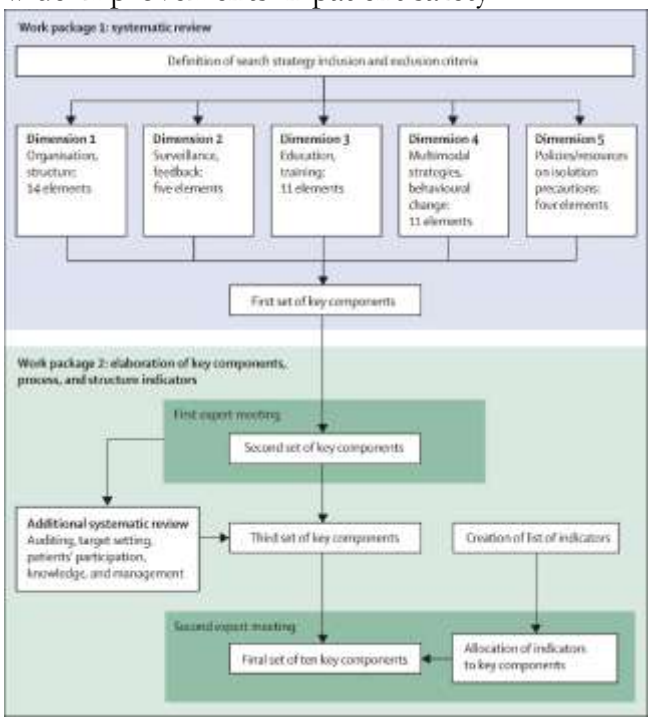

Figure 2. Organizational, Digital, and Workforce Enablers of Whole-of-Hospital Infection Control

Collectively, organizational leadership, digital infrastructure, and workforce capacity function as **interdependent enablers** of whole-of-hospital infection control. Their alignment transforms IPC from a set of isolated practices into a coordinated, resilient system capable of protecting patients and healthcare workers alike.

Evidence Synthesis and Integrated Hospital Infection Control Model

Synthesizing the evidence across the reviewed literature reveals that effective infection prevention and control (IPC) emerges from **system integration rather than isolated excellence**. Studies consistently demonstrate that hospitals achieving sustained reductions in healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) share a common architectural logic: aligned governance, standardized clinical practices, interoperable digital systems, and an engaged workforce operating within a unified safety culture. When these elements function coherently, infection risks are anticipated early, mitigated rapidly, and continuously monitored across the entire care pathway.

At the core of the synthesis is **systems thinking**, which reframes IPC as a dynamic interaction among people, processes, technologies, and environments. Evidence shows that standardized precautions (e.g., hand hygiene, isolation, asepsis) are most effective

when embedded in organizational routines supported by leadership accountability and cross-departmental coordination (Storr et al., 2021). Diagnostic accuracy and timeliness amplify this effect by enabling early case identification and targeted responses, while antimicrobial stewardship seen as a **hospital-wide control loop** reduces downstream resistance and secondary infections (Baur et al., 2017; Davey et al., 2017).

Environmental and support services constitute another critical layer in the integrated model. Studies linking enhanced cleaning protocols, ventilation management, and waste handling to lower environmental bioburden demonstrate that IPC effectiveness depends on synchronization between clinical workflows and environmental controls (Mitchell et al., 2020). These findings reinforce the notion that pathogens traverse organizational boundaries; therefore, controls must do the same.

Governance and leadership appear as **enablers and integrators** across all layers. Hospitals that embed IPC into quality management systems—supported by board-level oversight, clear lines of accountability, and performance metrics—exhibit stronger compliance and resilience during outbreaks (Zingg et al., 2019). International guidance, notably from the World Health Organization, emphasizes multimodal strategies that integrate governance, training, surveillance, and feedback, a pattern mirrored in high-performing hospitals reviewed in this synthesis.

Digital health infrastructure acts as the **connective tissue** of the integrated model. Surveillance platforms, interoperable electronic records, and analytics dashboards translate frontline data into actionable intelligence, enabling rapid outbreak detection and coordinated interventions. Evidence suggests that digital feedback loops—when paired with leadership support—sustain behavioral change and improve IPC compliance over time (Mitchell et al., 2020).

Workforce engagement completes the model. Continuous education, role clarity, and a psychologically safe reporting culture empower staff to act as active IPC agents rather than passive rule followers. Multidisciplinary training enhances shared mental models of infection risk and supports collaboration across professional and departmental boundaries (Storr et al., 2021).

Integrated Hospital Infection Control Model.

Drawing on this synthesis, the proposed model conceptualizes IPC as four interlocking layers:

1. **Clinical & Diagnostic Practice** (standardized precautions, accurate testing, stewardship),
2. **Environmental & Support Systems** (hygiene, infrastructure safety),
3. **Digital Surveillance & Data Integration** (real-time monitoring and feedback), and
4. **Governance & Workforce Culture** (leadership, accountability, continuous learning).

   The model is cyclical and adaptive, with data-driven feedback continuously informing practice and policy. Importantly, the model positions patient safety as the central outcome of coordinated action rather than the by-product of individual departmental performance.

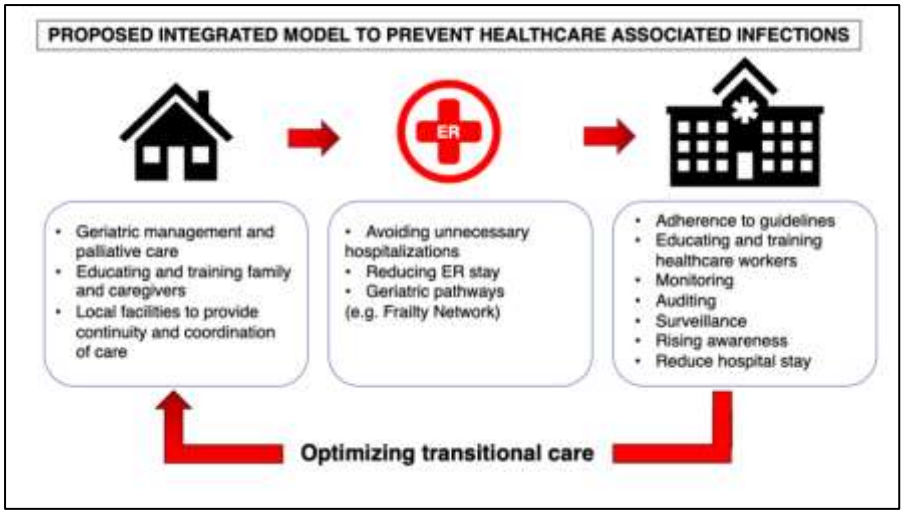

Figure 3. Integrated Whole-of-Hospital Infection Control Model

Overall, the evidence supports a **whole-of-hospital paradigm** in which integration transforms IPC from a reactive function into a proactive, resilient system capable of protecting patients, staff, and communities.

DISCUSSION

This review synthesizes evidence demonstrating that infection prevention and control (IPC) is most effective when conceptualized and implemented as a **whole-of-hospital system**, rather than a collection of isolated departmental activities. The findings reinforce a growing consensus in patient safety and health systems research that healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) are the product of complex, interdependent processes spanning clinical care, diagnostics, medication management, environmental services, governance, and digital infrastructure. Consequently, sustainable improvements in infection control require alignment across these domains.

A key insight emerging from this review is the **added value of integration**. While individual interventions—such as hand hygiene programs or antimicrobial stewardship—are well established in the literature, their impact is significantly amplified when embedded within coordinated, hospital-wide frameworks. Consistent with systems theory and high-reliability organization principles, the reviewed evidence indicates that IPC effectiveness depends on the strength of interactions between system components rather than the performance of any single element. Hospitals that align leadership accountability, standardized protocols, and digital surveillance demonstrate greater resilience to infection threats and more durable patient safety outcomes.

The findings also highlight the **central role of governance and leadership** in translating IPC knowledge into practice. Studies reviewed consistently show that executive engagement and board-level oversight elevate IPC from a technical function to a strategic priority. When infection control indicators are integrated into quality management and performance evaluation systems, compliance improves and variation between departments decreases. This supports prior research emphasizing that safety culture is shaped by organizational signals regarding priorities, accountability, and resource allocation.

Another important discussion point concerns the **interdependence between diagnostics, antimicrobial stewardship, and clinical decision-making**. The evidence suggests that delays in diagnosis or poor communication of laboratory results undermine IPC efforts, even in settings with strong clinical protocols. Conversely, integrated diagnostic workflows and stewardship programs reduce unnecessary antimicrobial exposure and mitigate antimicrobial resistance. This reinforces the need for IPC models

that explicitly link diagnostics, prescribing practices, and surveillance rather than treating them as parallel activities.

Environmental and support services emerge in this review as **critical but often under-recognized contributors** to patient safety. Although traditionally viewed as operational functions, environmental hygiene, ventilation, and waste management are deeply embedded in infection transmission pathways. The evidence underscores that successful IPC programs actively integrate environmental services into multidisciplinary planning, training, and feedback loops. This finding challenges hospitals to move beyond hierarchical distinctions between "clinical" and "non-clinical" roles in infection control.

The discussion also emphasizes the **transformative role of digital health systems**. Surveillance platforms, interoperable electronic health records, and audit dashboards function as enablers of coordination and learning across departments. Importantly, the literature suggests that technology alone is insufficient; digital tools yield meaningful impact only when combined with leadership support, workforce engagement, and action-oriented feedback mechanisms. This aligns with broader digital health research cautioning against technology-driven solutions that are disconnected from organizational context.

From a patient safety perspective, the reviewed evidence demonstrates that integrated IPC not only reduces HAIs and mortality but also improves **patient trust, transparency, and perceived quality of care**. Visible infection control practices, timely communication, and consistent standards contribute to a safer care environment that aligns with patient-centered care principles. These outcomes are particularly relevant in an era of heightened public awareness of infection risks following global pandemics.

Despite its contributions, this review has limitations. Variability in study designs, outcome measures, and reporting standards limits direct comparison across settings. Additionally, most studies originate from high-income healthcare systems, potentially limiting generalizability to resource-constrained environments. Future research should focus on standardized IPC outcome metrics, longitudinal evaluations of integrated models, and context-sensitive adaptations in low- and middle-income settings.

In summary, this discussion supports a paradigm shift from fragmented infection control practices toward **integrated, system-oriented IPC models**. By aligning governance, workforce capability, digital infrastructure, and multidisciplinary collaboration, hospitals can move from reactive infection control toward proactive, resilient patient safety systems.

CONCLUSION

This review demonstrates that effective infection prevention and control (IPC) cannot be achieved through isolated departmental efforts, but rather requires a **whole-of-hospital, integrated approach** that aligns clinical practice, diagnostics, medication management, environmental services, digital systems, and organizational governance. The synthesized evidence clearly indicates that hospitals adopting multidisciplinary and system-oriented IPC frameworks achieve more sustainable reductions in healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), improved antimicrobial stewardship, stronger safety culture, and enhanced patient safety outcomes.

The findings reinforce the view that infection control is both a **clinical and organizational responsibility**. Leadership commitment, standardized policies, workforce engagement, and interoperable digital infrastructure collectively create an environment in which infection risks can be anticipated, monitored, and mitigated effectively. Importantly, the review highlights that integration—not isolated excellence—represents the critical success factor in IPC performance. When infection control practices are embedded within

quality management systems and supported by real-time data and feedback, hospitals are better equipped to respond to routine risks as well as emerging infectious threats.

From a practical perspective, this review offers healthcare leaders and policymakers a structured foundation for strengthening hospital-wide IPC strategies. The proposed integrated model emphasizes shared accountability across all departments, continuous learning, and data-driven decision-making as essential components of resilient infection control systems. These insights are particularly relevant in the context of growing antimicrobial resistance, increasing healthcare complexity, and heightened public expectations regarding patient safety.

In conclusion, advancing infection prevention and control requires a shift from fragmented, department-centric interventions toward **cohesive, system-level solutions**. By embracing a holistic, multidisciplinary model, hospitals can safeguard patients and healthcare workers, enhance quality of care, and contribute to more resilient and trustworthy healthcare systems.

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