

## Special Issue for Social Work in Health Care

**Title:** Social Work Practice in the Era of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Innovations

**Guest Editors:**

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The impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has and will continue to have tremendous impact on the health and social well-being for populations across the world. Social workers, like many other professions, are addressing these needs in direct service provision and planning efforts to ameliorate unprecedented disruption across health, social, and economic systems. In September 2019, the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (2020) released a consensus study entitled 'Integrating Social Care into the Delivery of Health Care: Moving Upstream to Improve the Nation's Health.' The emergence of COVID-19 has further underscored the powerful influence of the upstream social determinants of health on individual and population level health outcomes. Now, more than ever, is a critical time to address both social needs within the context of health care service delivery.

This special issue of ***Social Work in Health Care*** invites submissions for a special issue entitled ***Social Work Practice in the Era of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Innovations***. Two types of articles are being considered for publication within this special issue:

**Research-Focused Articles:** Seeking articles that illustrate the ways in which social work practice has shifted, expanded, and mobilized in new and innovative ways in light of the COVID-19 pandemic—both to address upstream social determinants, to provide immediate assistance, and demonstrate leadership. We are especially interested in research articles that highlight specific ways in which social work has functioned in leadership roles to develop innovative practices, policies, and programs in response to COVID-19. Specifically, we are interested in the following:

- Studies describing innovations or shifts in social work services for client populations;
- Studies describing adaptations in social work roles and responsibilities to meet additional needs presented by COVID-19;
- Challenges and solutions in implementing telehealth services across settings and with specific populations;
- Studies examining the effects of COVID-19 on social workers and the organizations in which they work;
- Social work initiatives to support interprofessional team members and care delivery;
- Studies implementing public health social work approaches to prevention and health promotion in the time of COVID-19.

- Studies that examine the experiences of social workers at all levels (e.g., front line, managerial, leadership) in providing care during COVID-19.

**Practice-Innovation Articles:** In addition to traditional research studies, this special issue seeks to include a new **Practice Innovation Section** comprised of articles describing rapid innovations to social work practice that have been precipitated by COVID-19. Practice innovation submissions should be no more than 10 pages and describe existing or ongoing innovations designed to respond to COVID-19 challenges, including practice models, policies, protocols or organizational structures that have been modified to respond to challenges posed by COVID-19. Practice innovation articles may include but are not limited to:

- Exemplars of practice models, policies, protocols, and organizational structures that respond effectively to patient or population needs while maintaining social worker safety;
- Accounts of front-line social worker experiences and how they have addressed COVID-19 related behavioral health and psychosocial needs;
- Application of interprofessional communication strategies (e.g., huddles, etc) that have been modified or repurposed to address COVID-19 specific challenges.

Submissions are due **by October 15, 2020**. Two types of manuscripts are accepted to this special issue. (1) Research focused paper and (2) Practice innovation paper. The practice innovation manuscript should not exceed 15 pages with references. When you submit the article for consideration for the special issue, please select one of the following:

- (1) Social Work Practice in the Era of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Innovations - Research paper OR
- (2) Social Work Practice in the Era of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Innovations - Practice Innovation

Authors should follow the guidelines for writing articles for ***Social Work in Health Care***:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?show=instructions&journalCode=wshe20>