

Sustainability, Infection Prevention and Control and Climate Change Challenges in Egypt

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Abstract

Sustainability and infection prevention and control (IPC) in hospitals are critical to ensuring effective healthcare delivery, particularly in the context of climate change, which poses significant challenges to healthcare systems globally. In Egypt, hospitals face unique pressures due to resource limitations, high patient loads, and the growing impact of climate change on disease patterns and healthcare infrastructure. Rising temperatures, water scarcity, and extreme weather events exacerbate the risk of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and the spread of infectious diseases, necessitating adaptive and sustainable IPC strategies. Key strategies include optimizing resource use, implementing energy-efficient infrastructure, improving waste management, and enhancing water and sanitation systems to mitigate climate-related risks. Additionally, integrating climate adaptation measures into IPC protocols, such as surveillance of climate-sensitive diseases and training healthcare workers on climate-resilient practices, is essential. Sustainable IPC practices must align with global frameworks like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure long-term effectiveness. By addressing the dual challenges of sustainability and climate change, Egyptian hospitals can strengthen their capacity to prevent infections, reduce environmental impact, and provide safe, high-quality care in a changing climate. So, this underscores the importance of policy integration, innovation, and cross-sector collaboration to build climate-resilient and sustainable healthcare systems in Egypt.