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Enhancing Infection Prevention And Control Through Multidisciplinary Collaboration And Digital Health Solutions: A Comprehensive Review

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Abstract
Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) remain a major challenge to patient safety, healthcare quality, and system sustainability worldwide. Despite the availability of evidence-based infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines, fragmented implementation across healthcare disciplines continues to limit their effectiveness. This comprehensive review aims to examine how multidisciplinary collaboration, supported by digital health solutions, can enhance IPC outcomes across healthcare settings. The review synthesizes evidence from medical, nursing, laboratory, pharmacy, allied health, environmental, and administrative domains, highlighting their complementary roles in preventing infection transmission. In addition, the review explores the growing contribution of digital health technologies, including electronic health records, surveillance systems, artificial intelligence, and telemedicine, in strengthening IPC compliance, early detection, and data-driven decision-making. Findings indicate that integrated, team-based IPC approaches improve adherence to preventive measures, reduce infection rates, and enhance organizational resilience, particularly when supported by robust digital infrastructure and leadership commitment. The review concludes that sustainable improvement in infection prevention requires a systems-based model that aligns multidisciplinary teamwork with digital innovation, governance, and continuous quality improvement. Future efforts should focus on scalable, interoperable, and workforce-centered IPC strategies to address emerging infectious threats and evolving healthcare demands.

Keywords: Infection prevention; Infection control; Multidisciplinary collaboration; Digital health; Healthcare-associated infections; Patient safety; Quality improvement.

Introduction

Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) continue to pose a substantial threat to patient safety, healthcare quality, and health system sustainability worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that hundreds of millions of patients are affected by HAIs each year, leading to prolonged hospital stays, increased antimicrobial resistance, excess mortality, and significant economic burden on healthcare systems (WHO, 2016; Allegranzi et al., 2017). Despite the availability of well-established infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines, inconsistent implementation and limited integration across healthcare disciplines remain persistent challenges.

Traditionally, IPC efforts have focused on isolated clinical practices, such as hand hygiene, personal protective equipment use, and environmental cleaning. While these measures are essential, evidence increasingly suggests that fragmented, discipline-specific approaches are insufficient to address the

complexity of infection transmission within modern healthcare environments (Storr et al., 2021). Healthcare delivery is inherently multidisciplinary, involving physicians, nurses, laboratory professionals, pharmacists, allied health staff, environmental services, and administrators. The effectiveness of IPC strategies therefore depends not only on individual compliance, but also on coordinated teamwork, shared accountability, and effective communication across these professional groups.

In recent years, multidisciplinary collaboration has emerged as a critical enabler of effective IPC. Studies demonstrate that team-based IPC programs are associated with improved adherence to preventive practices, reductions in device-associated infections, and enhanced patient safety cultures (Huis et al., 2019; Mitchell et al., 2022). Such collaboration allows for the alignment of clinical decision-making, diagnostic support, antimicrobial stewardship, and environmental controls within a unified prevention framework. Leadership engagement and organizational governance further reinforce these efforts by embedding IPC into institutional priorities and performance management systems.

Parallel to these developments, digital health technologies have transformed the landscape of infection prevention. Electronic health records (EHRs), automated surveillance systems, clinical decision support tools, and data analytics platforms enable real-time monitoring of infection trends, early outbreak detection, and timely feedback to clinical teams (Peiffer-Smadja et al., 2020). Artificial intelligence and machine learning applications are increasingly being explored to predict infection risks and optimize IPC interventions, while telemedicine has gained prominence in reducing unnecessary exposure and supporting continuity of care, particularly during infectious disease outbreaks (Keesara et al., 2020).

The convergence of multidisciplinary collaboration and digital health presents a significant opportunity to strengthen IPC effectiveness. However, the evidence remains dispersed across disciplines and technologies, limiting the translation of knowledge into integrated practice. This comprehensive review addresses this gap by synthesizing current evidence on how coordinated multidisciplinary approaches, supported by digital health solutions, can enhance infection prevention and control across healthcare settings. By adopting a systems-based perspective, the review aims to inform practice, policy, and future research directions for sustainable and resilient IPC strategies.

Methodology

This review adopted a comprehensive narrative review design to synthesize current evidence on the role of multidisciplinary collaboration and digital health solutions in enhancing infection prevention and control (IPC) across healthcare settings. A narrative approach was selected to allow the integration of diverse evidence derived from clinical, organizational, technological, and public health perspectives, which are often examined separately in the literature.

A systematic literature search was conducted across major electronic databases, including PubMed/MEDLINE, Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. The search covered studies published between 2015 and 2025 to capture recent developments in IPC practices and digital health innovations. Key search terms and Boolean combinations included: infection prevention, infection control, healthcare-associated infections, multidisciplinary collaboration, interprofessional practice, digital health, electronic health records, surveillance systems, artificial intelligence, and telemedicine. Reference lists of relevant articles and international guideline documents were also hand-searched to identify additional sources.

Included studies comprised peer-reviewed original research, systematic reviews, scoping reviews, clinical guidelines, and authoritative reports from international health organizations. Articles were eligible if they addressed IPC strategies involving multiple healthcare disciplines and/or the application of digital health technologies in healthcare settings. Studies focusing exclusively on single-discipline interventions without broader system implications were excluded. Non-English publications, editorials, and conference abstracts without full text were also excluded.

Titles and abstracts were screened for relevance, followed by full-text review of eligible articles. Data were extracted using a structured framework capturing: study characteristics, healthcare setting, involved disciplines, IPC interventions, digital tools used, and reported outcomes related to infection rates, compliance, or system performance.

Findings were synthesized narratively and thematically. Evidence was organized into core domains: multidisciplinary clinical roles, diagnostic and support services, organizational and leadership factors,

and digital health enablers. This approach facilitated the development of an integrated conceptual understanding of how collaborative and digital strategies collectively strengthen IPC effectiveness.

Clinical Disciplines' Role in Infection Prevention

Clinical disciplines form the cornerstone of infection prevention and control (IPC) within healthcare systems, as they are directly involved in patient assessment, treatment, and daily care processes. Physicians and nurses, in particular, play pivotal and complementary roles in preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) through clinical decision-making, adherence to evidence-based practices, and direct patient engagement. Effective IPC at the clinical level depends not only on individual competence, but also on coordinated teamwork, shared accountability, and consistent integration of IPC principles into routine care.

Physicians contribute to infection prevention primarily through diagnostic accuracy, timely therapeutic decisions, and leadership in antimicrobial stewardship. Early recognition of infectious conditions and prompt initiation of appropriate isolation measures are critical to limiting pathogen transmission within healthcare facilities. Clinical decisions regarding diagnostic testing, invasive procedures, and treatment pathways directly influence infection risk, particularly in high-acuity settings such as intensive care units and emergency departments.

Antimicrobial stewardship programs, typically led or co-led by physicians, are a key IPC strategy aimed at optimizing antibiotic use to reduce antimicrobial resistance and secondary infections such as Clostridioides difficile infection. Evidence indicates that physician engagement in stewardship initiatives leads to reduced inappropriate antibiotic prescribing, improved clinical outcomes, and lower HAI rates (Baur et al., 2017; Davey et al., 2017). In addition, physicians play a crucial role in reinforcing compliance with standard and transmission-based precautions by modeling best practices and supporting multidisciplinary IPC policies.

Physicians also serve as clinical leaders who influence organizational IPC culture. Their involvement in IPC committees, guideline development, and quality improvement initiatives strengthens alignment between clinical practice and institutional infection control goals. Studies have shown that active physician leadership is associated with higher adherence to IPC protocols and improved staff compliance across disciplines (Storr et al., 2021).

Nurses are central to IPC implementation due to their continuous presence at the patient bedside and their responsibility for delivering and coordinating daily care. Nursing practice directly affects multiple determinants of infection risk, including hand hygiene, aseptic technique, device management, and environmental interaction. Compliance with hand hygiene protocols among nurses has been consistently associated with significant reductions in HAIs, underscoring the critical nature of this role (Huis et al., 2019).

Invasive device care represents another major nursing responsibility in infection prevention. Proper insertion, maintenance, and timely removal of devices such as urinary catheters, central venous catheters, and ventilators are essential to preventing device-associated infections. Nursing-led bundles targeting catheter-associated urinary tract infections and central line–associated bloodstream infections have demonstrated substantial reductions in infection rates across diverse healthcare settings (Marschall et al., 2014; Umscheid et al., 2019).

Beyond technical practices, nurses play a vital role in patient and family education related to infection prevention. Educating patients on hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, wound care, and adherence to isolation precautions contributes to shared responsibility for infection control and supports safer care transitions. Nurses also function as key communicators within multidisciplinary teams, ensuring that IPC-related information, such as isolation status or infection risks, is accurately conveyed during handovers and care coordination.

While physicians and nurses have distinct responsibilities, evidence increasingly emphasizes that optimal IPC outcomes depend on effective interprofessional collaboration. Joint participation in ward rounds, IPC audits, and quality improvement initiatives enhances mutual understanding of roles and promotes consistent application of preventive measures. Interprofessional collaboration has been linked to improved compliance with IPC guidelines, reduced communication failures, and stronger safety cultures (Mitchell et al., 2022).

Table 1. Clinical Disciplines' Roles and Key Responsibilities in Infection Prevention

Clinical Discipline	Key IPC Responsibilities	Impact on Infection Prevention
Physicians	Early diagnosis and isolation decisions; antimicrobial stewardship; clinical leadership in IPC	Reduced transmission, optimized antibiotic use, improved compliance
Nurses	Hand hygiene; aseptic technique; device care; patient and family education	Lower HAIs, reduced device-associated infections
Both (Interprofessional)	IPC audits; adherence to guidelines; communication and teamwork	Improved safety culture and sustained IPC outcomes

In summary, clinical disciplines play an essential and interconnected role in infection prevention. Physicians contribute through diagnostic leadership, antimicrobial stewardship, and clinical governance, while nurses ensure consistent implementation of IPC practices at the point of care. When supported by strong interprofessional collaboration, these clinical roles collectively form the foundation of effective and sustainable infection prevention and control programs.

Diagnostic, Pharmacy, and Allied Health Contributions

Beyond frontline clinical care, diagnostic services, pharmacy, and allied health professionals play a critical and often under-recognized role in strengthening infection prevention and control (IPC). Their contributions extend across the infection prevention continuum—from early detection and risk stratification to therapeutic optimization and prevention of secondary transmission—making them essential partners in multidisciplinary IPC programs.

Clinical microbiology and laboratory services are central to effective IPC through timely pathogen identification, antimicrobial susceptibility testing, and surveillance support. Rapid and accurate diagnostics enable early initiation of targeted therapy and prompt implementation of isolation and containment measures, which are vital for limiting healthcare-associated transmission. Advances in molecular diagnostics, such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing and syndromic panels, have significantly reduced diagnostic turnaround times, improving both clinical decision-making and outbreak control (Mancini et al., 2020).

Laboratories also contribute to IPC through continuous surveillance of infection trends and antimicrobial resistance patterns. Aggregated laboratory data support early detection of outbreaks and inform institutional IPC policies, including isolation protocols and environmental decontamination strategies. Close collaboration between laboratory teams, infection control units, and clinicians enhances data interpretation and facilitates rapid response to emerging threats. Evidence suggests that healthcare facilities with strong laboratory-IPC integration demonstrate improved detection of multidrug-resistant organisms and reduced transmission rates (Peiffer-Smadja et al., 2020).

Pharmacy services play a pivotal role in IPC through antimicrobial stewardship, medication safety, and resistance mitigation. Inappropriate antibiotic use is a major driver of antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections, including Clostridioides difficile infection. Pharmacists, working collaboratively with physicians and microbiologists, contribute to optimizing antimicrobial selection, dosing, duration, and route of administration.

Multiple studies have demonstrated that pharmacist-led or pharmacist-supported antimicrobial stewardship programs are associated with reductions in inappropriate antibiotic prescribing, lower resistance rates, and improved patient outcomes (Baur et al., 2017; Tamma et al., 2021). Pharmacists also monitor antimicrobial consumption trends and provide feedback to clinical teams, supporting data-driven IPC interventions. Additionally, their role in medication reconciliation, intravenous-to-oral switch programs, and adverse drug event prevention indirectly reduces infection risk by minimizing unnecessary invasive procedures and hospital length of stay.

Allied health professionals—including respiratory therapists, physiotherapists, radiology staff, and rehabilitation specialists—contribute significantly to IPC through procedure-specific precautions, equipment handling, and workflow management. Respiratory therapists, for example, are instrumental in preventing ventilator-associated infections through adherence to ventilation bundles, airway management protocols, and equipment disinfection procedures. Radiology and imaging staff play a key

role in minimizing cross-contamination by ensuring proper cleaning of diagnostic equipment and adherence to patient flow protocols, particularly when managing patients with known or suspected infectious diseases.

Allied health professionals also support IPC by reducing unnecessary patient movement and exposure risks, optimizing care delivery pathways, and reinforcing infection prevention behaviors within their scope of practice. Their integration into IPC training programs and audits has been associated with improved compliance and enhanced safety culture (Mitchell et al., 2022).

The effectiveness of diagnostic, pharmacy, and allied health contributions to IPC is maximized when these roles are formally integrated into multidisciplinary IPC frameworks. Regular interdisciplinary meetings, shared data dashboards, and collaborative protocol development foster alignment between diagnostic insights, therapeutic decisions, and preventive actions. Such integration supports a proactive, system-wide approach to IPC rather than reactive, siloed interventions.

Table 2. Diagnostic, Pharmacy, and Allied Health Roles in Infection Prevention and Control

Discipline	Key IPC Functions	Contribution to IPC Outcomes
Laboratory / Diagnostics	Pathogen identification; susceptibility testing; infection surveillance	Early detection, targeted therapy, outbreak control
Pharmacy	Antimicrobial stewardship; medication safety; resistance monitoring	Reduced inappropriate antibiotic use, lower resistance rates
Allied Health (e.g., Respiratory, Radiology)	Procedure-specific precautions; equipment disinfection; workflow optimization	Reduced cross-contamination, improved compliance

In summary, diagnostic services enable early detection and surveillance, pharmacy services mitigate antimicrobial-related risks, and allied health professionals ensure safe procedural and operational practices. Together, these disciplines enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of infection prevention and control efforts, reinforcing the need for inclusive, multidisciplinary IPC strategies.

Environmental, Support, and Administrative Roles

Effective infection prevention and control (IPC) extends beyond direct clinical care to include environmental, support, and administrative functions, which collectively shape the safety and resilience of healthcare systems. These roles are fundamental in interrupting transmission pathways, supporting frontline staff, and embedding IPC principles into organizational structures and daily operations. Without robust environmental and administrative support, clinical IPC efforts are difficult to sustain.

Environmental services play a central role in reducing pathogen transmission through cleaning, disinfection, and waste management. High-touch surfaces, shared medical equipment, and patient care areas are well-recognized reservoirs for healthcare-associated pathogens. Evidence demonstrates that improved environmental cleaning practices are associated with significant reductions in infection rates, particularly for multidrug-resistant organisms (Dancer, 2014; Mitchell et al., 2019). Standardized cleaning protocols, regular auditing, and the use of evidence-based disinfectants are essential components of effective IPC programs.

Facility design and engineering controls also contribute substantially to infection prevention. Adequate ventilation systems, appropriate air filtration, and spatial separation of patients with infectious conditions reduce airborne and contact transmission risks. The integration of IPC principles into healthcare facility planning—such as isolation room design and patient flow optimization—has been shown to enhance preparedness for outbreaks and pandemics (WHO, 2019).

Support services, including laundry, food services, transport, and waste disposal, influence infection risks through their impact on environmental hygiene and staff–patient interactions. Proper handling of linens, safe food preparation practices, and controlled patient transport pathways minimize opportunities for cross-contamination. Occupational health services further support IPC by protecting healthcare workers through vaccination programs, exposure management, and monitoring of work-

related infections. Protecting the workforce is critical not only for staff safety, but also for maintaining service continuity and preventing secondary transmission to patients (Shaw et al., 2020).

Administrative and leadership roles are essential in institutionalizing IPC as an organizational priority. Senior management commitment influences resource allocation, policy enforcement, and staff engagement with infection prevention programs. The World Health Organization identifies leadership, governance, and accountability as core components of effective IPC programs (Storr et al., 2021).

Administrators facilitate IPC by establishing clear policies, supporting multidisciplinary IPC committees, and integrating infection prevention indicators into quality and performance management systems. Investment in staffing, training, and digital infrastructure further strengthens IPC capacity. Studies indicate that healthcare organizations with strong leadership engagement demonstrate higher compliance with IPC standards, improved safety culture, and more sustainable infection reduction outcomes (Aghdassi et al., 2019).

Environmental, support, and administrative roles collectively influence organizational culture, which is a key determinant of IPC success. A culture that promotes safety, open communication, and shared responsibility enables frontline staff to adhere consistently to infection prevention practices. Administrative support for continuous education, feedback mechanisms, and non-punitive reporting systems reinforces IPC compliance across all levels of the organization.

In summary, environmental hygiene, support services, and administrative leadership are indispensable pillars of comprehensive infection prevention and control. Their coordinated involvement ensures that clinical IPC practices are reinforced by safe environments, protected workforces, and robust governance structures, enabling healthcare systems to achieve sustained reductions in healthcare-associated infections.

Digital Health Solutions Supporting Infection Prevention and Control

Digital health technologies have become critical enablers of effective infection prevention and control (IPC), particularly in complex healthcare systems where timely information, coordination, and surveillance are essential. By supporting real-time data collection, analysis, and communication, digital solutions strengthen multidisciplinary IPC efforts and enhance the ability of healthcare organizations to prevent, detect, and respond to healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).

Electronic health records (EHRs) serve as a foundational digital tool for IPC by integrating patient data, clinical workflows, and infection-related alerts. EHR-based prompts can notify healthcare workers of isolation requirements, flag patients with multidrug-resistant organisms, and support compliance with transmission-based precautions. Clinical decision support systems embedded within EHRs further assist clinicians by guiding appropriate diagnostic testing, antimicrobial prescribing, and duration of therapy, thereby reinforcing antimicrobial stewardship and reducing infection risks (Fischer et al., 2020). Evidence suggests that EHR-driven alerts and standardized order sets improve adherence to IPC protocols and reduce preventable HAIs.

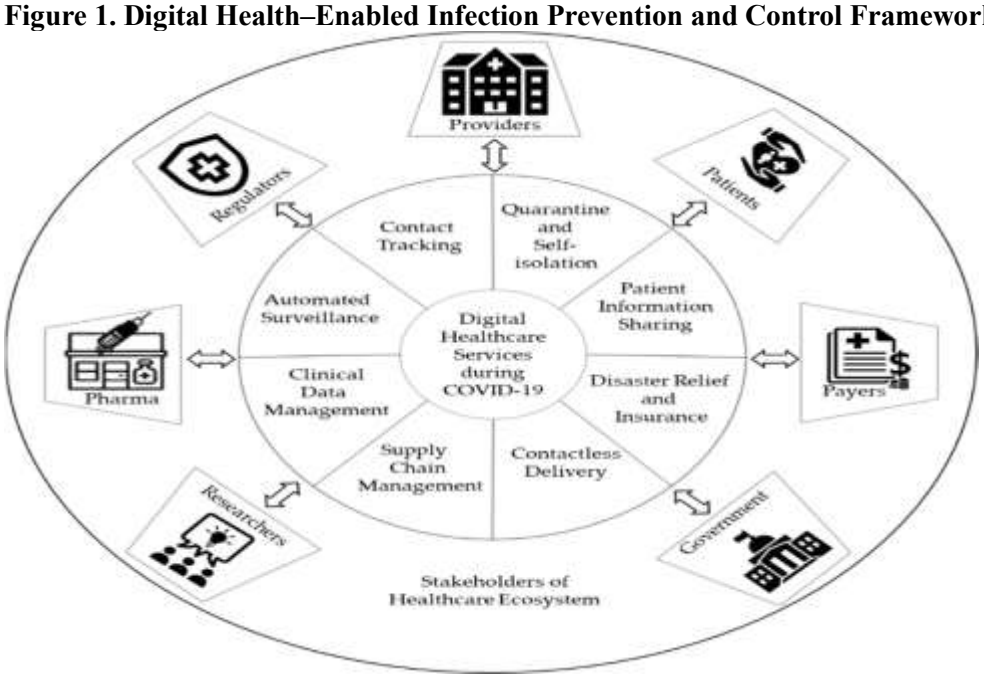
Digital surveillance systems enable continuous monitoring of infection trends across healthcare facilities. Automated infection surveillance tools collect and analyze data from laboratory systems, EHRs, and pharmacy databases to identify abnormal patterns, clusters, or outbreaks in real time. Compared to manual surveillance, automated systems improve detection accuracy, reduce reporting delays, and free infection control personnel to focus on intervention and prevention activities (Freeman et al., 2021). Dashboards and visual analytics further enhance situational awareness by providing multidisciplinary teams and leadership with actionable insights into IPC performance indicators.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced analytics represent emerging innovations in IPC. Machine learning algorithms have been applied to predict infection risks, identify patients at higher likelihood of colonization or infection, and support early outbreak detection. These tools can integrate multiple data sources—including clinical variables, laboratory results, and environmental factors—to generate predictive models that enhance proactive IPC decision-making (Peiffer-Smadja et al., 2020). While AI applications in IPC are still evolving, early evidence indicates potential benefits in optimizing surveillance efficiency and targeting preventive interventions.

Telemedicine and digital communication platforms also support IPC by reducing unnecessary physical contact and minimizing exposure risks. Remote consultations allow continuity of care for patients with infectious conditions while protecting healthcare workers and other patients. During outbreaks and pandemics, telehealth has been shown to play a significant role in maintaining healthcare access while

supporting infection containment strategies (Keesara et al., 2020). Secure messaging and collaboration platforms further facilitate rapid communication among multidisciplinary IPC teams, enhancing coordination and response.

Figure 1. Digital Health–Enabled Infection Prevention and Control Framework



The figure illustrates an integrated IPC framework in which digital health solutions (EHRs, surveillance systems, AI analytics, and telemedicine) support multidisciplinary teams (clinical staff, diagnostics, pharmacy, environmental services, and administration). Real-time data flows from patient care and laboratory systems into surveillance dashboards, informing clinical decision-making, antimicrobial stewardship, and organizational governance. This digital–collaborative model enables early detection, rapid response, and continuous quality improvement in infection prevention and control.

Despite their benefits, digital IPC solutions require careful implementation to ensure interoperability, data quality, and user acceptance. Training, leadership support, and alignment with clinical workflows are essential to realizing the full potential of digital tools. When effectively integrated, digital health solutions complement human expertise and multidisciplinary collaboration, forming a robust foundation for modern IPC programs.

The framework depicts digital health enablers—Electronic Health Records (EHRs), automated surveillance systems, AI-driven analytics, and telemedicine—forming a data backbone that continuously collects, integrates, and analyzes inputs from clinical care, laboratory diagnostics, pharmacy, allied health, environmental services, and administration/leadership. Real-time dashboards and decision-support alerts translate data into actionable insights (e.g., isolation prompts, stewardship guidance, outbreak signals), enabling multidisciplinary collaboration, early detection, rapid response, and continuous quality improvement across healthcare settings.

Discussion

This comprehensive review highlights that effective infection prevention and control (IPC) in modern healthcare systems depends on the synergistic integration of multidisciplinary collaboration and digital health solutions. While traditional IPC strategies have focused on individual compliance with standard precautions, the evidence synthesized in this review underscores that sustainable reductions in healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) require coordinated, system-wide approaches that align people, processes, and technology.

Across clinical, diagnostic, pharmacy, allied health, environmental, and administrative domains, the findings consistently demonstrate that collaborative practice enhances IPC effectiveness. Physicians and nurses provide frontline leadership in diagnosis, treatment decisions, and daily preventive practices, while laboratory and pharmacy services enable timely detection of pathogens and optimization of antimicrobial use. Allied health professionals and environmental services further reduce transmission

risks through safe procedures, equipment handling, and environmental hygiene. When these roles function in isolation, IPC efforts are fragmented; however, when integrated within multidisciplinary frameworks, they reinforce one another and contribute to a stronger safety culture.

Digital health technologies emerge as critical enablers of this integration. Electronic health records, automated surveillance systems, and clinical decision support tools facilitate real-time information sharing and standardization of IPC practices. The growing application of artificial intelligence and advanced analytics offers promising opportunities for predictive risk assessment and early outbreak detection. Consistent with recent literature, this review suggests that digital tools are most effective when they support—not replace—clinical judgment and teamwork, emphasizing the importance of human–technology alignment in IPC programs (Peiffer-Smadja et al., 2020; Freeman et al., 2021).

Despite these advantages, the review also identifies several implementation challenges. Digital health adoption is often hindered by interoperability limitations, data quality concerns, and variable digital literacy among healthcare workers. Similarly, multidisciplinary collaboration may be constrained by hierarchical structures, role ambiguity, and inconsistent leadership engagement. These barriers highlight that technology alone is insufficient; success depends on organizational readiness, leadership commitment, and continuous workforce training. Aligning IPC strategies with institutional governance, quality improvement systems, and performance indicators is therefore essential.

The findings of this review align with international guidance emphasizing leadership, surveillance, education, and multimodal strategies as core components of effective IPC programs (WHO, 2016; Storr et al., 2021). Importantly, the review expands on existing frameworks by illustrating how digital health can operationalize these components, enabling scalability and resilience in the face of emerging infectious threats. The COVID-19 pandemic further demonstrated that healthcare systems with integrated digital infrastructures and strong multidisciplinary coordination were better positioned to respond rapidly and maintain service continuity.

From a research perspective, gaps remain regarding the long-term effectiveness and cost–benefit of advanced digital solutions, particularly artificial intelligence applications in IPC. Future studies should focus on multicenter evaluations, implementation science approaches, and the impact of digital–collaborative models on patient outcomes and workforce behavior.

In summary, this discussion reinforces that advancing IPC requires a holistic, systems-based approach. Multidisciplinary collaboration provides the human foundation of infection prevention, while digital health solutions offer the tools to enhance visibility, coordination, and responsiveness. Together, these elements form a robust framework for strengthening patient safety and healthcare quality in increasingly complex care environments.

Conclusion

Infection prevention and control (IPC) remains a fundamental determinant of patient safety, healthcare quality, and system resilience in increasingly complex healthcare environments. This comprehensive review demonstrates that effective and sustainable IPC cannot be achieved through isolated clinical practices alone, but rather requires a multidisciplinary, system-wide approach supported by robust digital health solutions. The evidence highlights that physicians, nurses, diagnostic and laboratory services, pharmacy, allied health professionals, environmental services, and administrative leadership each contribute uniquely to reducing infection risks, and that their impact is maximized when these roles are integrated within coordinated IPC frameworks.

The review further underscores the pivotal role of digital health technologies—including electronic health records, automated surveillance systems, clinical decision support tools, and emerging artificial intelligence applications—in enhancing IPC effectiveness. When thoughtfully implemented, these technologies improve real-time surveillance, standardize preventive practices, support antimicrobial stewardship, and facilitate timely communication across disciplines. Importantly, digital tools function best as enablers of collaboration and informed decision-making, rather than as stand-alone solutions.

Despite clear benefits, the review identifies persistent challenges related to interoperability, workforce readiness, and organizational culture, emphasizing the need for leadership commitment, continuous training, and alignment with governance and quality improvement systems. Addressing these challenges is critical to translating evidence into routine practice.

In conclusion, strengthening infection prevention and control requires a holistic, integrated model that aligns multidisciplinary collaboration with digital innovation. Future efforts should focus on scalable,

interoperable, and workforce-centered IPC strategies to enhance preparedness for emerging infectious threats and to support long-term improvements in healthcare safety and quality.

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