



PROJECT **FIRSTLINE** JOURNAL CLUB

Project Firstline's curated journal club series draws on published, open access research examining important infection control topics for the healthcare workforce. Use the discussion questions below or create your own. Please check [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for the latest data and recommendations on infection control topics affecting the healthcare workforce.



Article:

[Increase in Hospital-Acquired Carbapenem-Resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* Infection and Colonization in an Acute Care Hospital During a Surge in COVID-19 Admissions — New Jersey, February-July 2020](#)

An increase in COVID-19-related hospitalizations in New Jersey led to shortages in personnel, personal protective equipment (PPE), and medical equipment. The surge resulted in challenges in maintaining the hospital's standard infection prevention and control (IPC) practices, such as hand hygiene, PPE use, and environmental cleaning and disinfection. This surge also left the facility vulnerable to outbreaks of multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) infections.



Discussion:

Understanding and analyzing the article:

- What is the purpose of this article? If provided, identify the main research questions and hypotheses.
- Who are the authors and what are their affiliations (who they work for or who funded the research) and credentials (degrees or professional experience)?
- Do any of the authors have affiliations that could influence the outcome of the study due to a conflict of interest?
- When was the article published, and is the information still timely and relevant to the topic? Why or why not?
- What background information is important to understanding this topic?
- What study design or research methods were used?
- What were the main findings of the paper and how do the authors support their interpretation of the findings?
- What are the strengths and limitations of this article?

Continue the discussion:

- Hospitals managing surges of patients with COVID-19 were vulnerable to outbreaks of MDRO infections. What steps can healthcare facilities take in advance to ensure standard IPC practices are maintained during an unexpected outbreak or surge in patients?
- How should healthcare facilities document and widely disseminate IPC lessons learned and best practices for staff to better prepare for future outbreaks?



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