



Understanding the Impact of Integrated Care

IJIC Special Collection Call for Papers

Introduction

The field of integrated care lacks knowledge and evidence of impact, both on how it impacts on people's experiences and care outcomes, but also on its contribution to health and care system performance and sustainability. A recent review of articles published in IJIC revealed that measuring the impact of integrated care is challenging and that our ability to demonstrate solid and unbiased evidence that integrated care works, and in what context, is weaker than it should be [1].

A part of the problem is the recognition that, in most cases, the application of integrated care represents a complex innovation that requires development and adaptation within the context of its application. As a result, no two integrated programs are exactly alike, meaning that there is no 'all inclusive' framework or set of methods that can adequately capture the impact of integrated care - both within specific programs, but also to compare between them.

More fundamentally, measuring the impact of integrated care requires a multifaceted approach, considering various perspectives across different contexts and using diverse measures. Whereas established thinking might focus on the collective purpose of integrated care as means to improve care experiences, care outcomes, and cost-effectiveness of care [2] impact will also encompass many other elements such as workforce capability and well-being, co-production partnerships with people and communities, ability to address health equity and the social determinants of ill-health, quality of life, and the many aspects of system sustainability, including environmental sustainability. How, then, should we judge impact? From whose perspective? What approaches can and have been taken to appropriately measure impact of integrated care given its multifaceted nature?

Aims and Scope

The purpose of this special collection is to bring together papers that address these challenges. Specifically, it seeks submissions that examine both what and how to measure impact, and what evidence for impact exists on the health and wellbeing experiences and outcomes both for individuals but also for carers, families, communities and the health and care workforce. We are also interested to understand how and whether integrated care impacts on the performance and sustainability of health and care systems.

This special collection is keen to receive original papers under four categories: policy papers; research and theory papers, including methodology papers and evidence reviews; integrated care cases; and perspective papers. Further guidance for authors can be found at

<https://www.ijic.org/about/submissions/>. The Journal also actively encourages prospective authors to contact us with their abstracts before submission to receive feedback and guidance.

Key Dates

Special collection launch: Monday 14 July 2025

Submission deadline: Friday 7 November 2025

Expected publication launch of special collection: April 2026

Special issue workshop: April 2026 at ICIC26 in Birmingham

IJIC editorial for special collection: June 2026

The special collection seeks to bring together original papers on an ongoing basis, so papers submitted after the revised deadline will be accepted for consideration. For successfully reviewed papers submitted for publication by the deadline of 7 November 2025, we aim to publish these in the launch of the special collection in April 2026.

Publication fees

The IJIC author fee is £1500 GBP (plus GST/VAT) with a 50% discount to PhD students. We also run a bursary scheme to reduce author fee costs to authors from low- and middle-income countries as well as from users and carers. No fees are charged to the publication of thesis summaries, book reviews, guest editorials and any other papers directly solicited from the Editorial Board.

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Managing Editor and Special Collection Contact

Ms Susan Royer	Managing Editor, IJIC susanroyer@integratedcarefoundation.org
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References

- [1] Michgelsen J et al (2023) Measuring the impact of integrated care: from principles to real-world impact, *IJIC*, 23(12) DOI:10.5334/ijic.7783
- [2] Goodwin N (2016) Understanding integrated care, *IJIC*, 16(4) DOI:10.5334/ijic.2530.