



Special Issue, Call for Papers

Towards community- and patient-centered health services research? Rethinking evaluation in health planning and management

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The COVID-19 pandemic is a powerful reminder of the importance of having health services that are available, accessible, appropriate, equitable, effective, and sustainable. Evaluation is key to draw lessons learnt about what went wrong with health services organization and functioning; it can also highlight the significant positive lessons on innovation, coordination and resilience of health services. These crucial insights can help us prepare better for the next health crises. Beyond the pandemic, health services evaluation pushes us to critically appraise routine health planning and management at individual, organizational, and macropolitical levels. Until now, the body of literature has been concentrating on measuring health service effectiveness. Scholars have also long privileged policymakers' and health providers' expert knowledge in assessing health services and finding ways to improve those services. A growing evidence base now acknowledges service users as legitimate experts in our quest to improve health services. They may be involved in various evaluation processes/stages. Communities and patients push researchers, health managers and practitioners to rethink and redefine the mainstream determinants of performant health services, e.g., by recentering on respectfulness, trustworthiness and cultural humility. Recognizing the value of these transformations, we evaluative health scholars now need to a) shift our focus towards understanding why health services may be (or may not be) performant, how and under what conditions, and b) embrace the paradigm of patient- and community-centered health service research and evaluation.

This Special Issue of the International Journal of Health Planning and Management (HPM) (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10991751>) sheds a renewed light onto health service research, whereby the paradigm of patients- and community-centered research becomes the cornerstone of collaborative evaluation efforts. Papers submitted for publication should offer new insights into this new era of participatory health services evaluation at the global level and from an international and comparative perspective. Papers submitted will address the planning, sustainability, processes, fidelity, efficiency, equity and effectiveness of health services. Papers may be about evaluating health services, as well as processes to support the use of evaluations to improve health services, and reflexive analyses of both processes (evaluation and knowledge translation). We welcome short communications, perspectives (i.e., evidence-informed opinion pieces about the future of this evaluative field, field experience), review articles, and original research articles with empirical findings or reflexive thinking. Original research articles can use qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods research, comparative research and in-depth country or regional case studies.

Submission process and timelines outlined on the following page...



A two-step submission and selection process applies for this Special Issue. If you submit an abstract, please make sure that it is original research not published elsewhere and that you fully agree with the [journal guidelines and ethical policy](#), and with our timetable:

- 7 October 2021: abstract submission deadline; no more than 300 words to be sent as a Word document by email to the guest editor (lara.gautier@umontreal.ca). Longer abstracts or PDF files will not be considered.
- 22 October 2021: notification and, if selected, invitation to submit a full paper; abstracts will be selected by the four guest editors.
- 7 January 2022: submission to HPM via <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/hpm>.
- 8 April 2022: decision following peer-review process.
- September 2022: Special Issue scheduled for publication.

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