

Factors Related to the Incidence of ICU-acquired Infections in Iran: Analysis of National Data

İran'da Yoğun Bakım Ünitesinden Edinilen Enfeksiyonların İnsidansına İlişkin Faktörler: Ulusal Verilerin Analizi

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Abstract

Introduction: Patients admitted to intensive care units (ICUs) are particularly susceptible to hospital-acquired infections (HAIs). This study aimed to investigate factors related to the incidence of ICU-AIs in Iran.

Materials and Methods: In this study, Iranian nosocomial infections surveillance and hospital statistics and information system were used to collect data on patients with HAIs in 2018. The data was expanded based on 12 months of the year (13,632 records in terms of "hospital-ward-month") and then, the last observation carried forward method was used to replace the missing data. The generalized negative binomial regression with "patient-days" as an offset variable was used to identify the factors affecting the incidence of ICU-AIs.

Results: Of the patients 22.92%, 5.76%, 13.62%, 43.41%, and 14.29% of were in neonatal ICU, pediatric ICU (PICU), internal ICU, general ICU, and surgical ICU (SICU), respectively. The most common ICU-AIs were ventilator-associated events (VAE) and urinary catheter-related infections (UTI). Based on multivariable regression, the number of death [incidence rate ratio (IRR)=1.02], the number of device-related infections (IRR=1.1), ward type [PICU (IRR=1.58), internal ICU (IRR=1.63), general ICU (IRR=1.53) and SICU (IRR=1.47)], bed occupancy rate indicator (IRR=1.17 for moderate conditions), hospital's accreditation (IRR=1.23 and IRR=1.73 for accreditation 1 and 2, respectively) and hospital's expertise were associated with an increase in ICU-AIs incidence.

Conclusion: Based on the results, the most common ICU-AIs were VAE and UTI. Therefore, to reduce incidence of ICU-AIs, full hygiene control should be performed by the medical staff. Ventilators and catheters should be used in special circumstances with minimum duration.

Keywords: Risk, hospital acquired infections, intensive care units, Iran

Öz

Giriş: Yoğun bakım ünitelerine (YBÜ) kabul edilen hastalar, özellikle hastane kaynaklı enfeksiyonlara (HKE) duyarlıdır. Bu çalışma, İran'da YBÜ kaynaklı enfeksiyonların (YBÜ-KE) insidansı ile ilgili faktörleri araştırmayı amaçlamıştır.

Gereç ve Yöntem: Bu çalışmada, 2018 yılında, HKE'li hastaların verilerini toplamak için İran hastane enfeksiyonları surveyansı ve hastane istatistik ve bilgi sistemi kullanıldı. Veriler yılın 12 ayı baz alınarak genişletildi ("hastane-servis-ay" açısından 13.632 kayıt) ve daha sonra, eksik verilerin yerini alması için son gözlemin kaydedilmesi yöntemi kullanılmıştır. YBÜ-KE insidansını etkileyen faktörleri belirlemek için bir denge değişkeni olarak "hasta-günleri" ile genelleştirilmiş negatif binom regresyon kullanıldı.

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Bulgular: Hastaların sırasıyla %22,92, %5,76, %13,62, %43,41 ve %14,29'u yenidoğan YBÜ'de, çocuk YBÜ'de (ÇYBÜ), dahili YBÜ, genel YBÜ ve cerrahi YBÜ'de idi. En yaygın YBÜ-KE'ler ventilatör ilişkili olaylar ve kateter ilişkili üriner sistem enfeksiyonları idi. Çok değişkenli regresyon analizine göre; YBÜ-KE insidansında artış, ölüm sayısı (IRR=1,02), cihazla ilgili enfeksiyon sayısı (IRR=1,1), servis tipi [ÇYBÜ (IRR=1,58), dahili YBÜ (IRR=1,63), genel YBÜ (IRR=1,53) ve cerrahi YBÜ (IRR=1,47)], yatak doluluk oranı göstergesi (orta koşullar için IRR=1,17), hastanenin akreditasyonu (sırasıyla akreditasyon 1 ve 2 için IRR=1,23 ve IRR=1,73) ve hastanenin uzmanlığı ile ilişkiliydi.

Sonuç: Sonuçlara göre, en yaygın YBÜ-KE'ler ventilatörle ilişkili olaylar ve üriner kateterle ilişkili enfeksiyonlar idi. Bu nedenle, YBÜ-KE insidansını azaltmak için tıbbi personel tarafından tam hijyen kontrolü yapılmalıdır. Ventilatör ve kateterler özel durumlarda ve minimum süre ile kullanılmalıdır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Risk, hastane enfeksiyonları, yoğun bakım üniteleri, İran

Introduction

Hospital-acquired infections (HAIs) are a major health concern worldwide and are regarded as the most common complications in any healthcare facility^[1]. According to the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control estimates, more than 2.5 million cases of HAIs occur annually in Europe^[2]. Additionally, in the United States, HAIs account for 100,000 deaths annually^[2].

Patients who are admitted to intensive care units (ICUs) are particularly susceptible to HAIs, with higher morbidity of HAIs than other hospital wards, which are often severe^[2,3]. Intensive care unit-AIs affect patient's safety in developing and developed countries and are considered responsible for a substantial proportion of disability, increased length of stay (LOS) and mortality, recovery process delays, and impose additional costs and financial burden on the healthcare system of countries^[4,5].

Studies on infection in the ICU in Europe demonstrated a significantly higher (20.6%) prevalence of ICU-AIs^[6]. The important ICU-AIs include ventilator-associated pneumonia/ventilator-associated events (VAE), urinary catheter-related infections (UTI), central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), and surgical site infections (SSI)^[6,7]. Additionally, a meta-analysis study by Ling et al.^[8] in Southeast Asia revealed that the pooled incidence of HAI was 20 patients per 1,000 ICU-days.

The majority of these infections are associated with aging, disease severity, and healthcare factors including the increased use of invasive devices (endotracheal tubes, tracheostomy, central venous and urinary catheterization, and mechanical ventilation), type of provided health services, and inappropriate use of antimicrobial drugs^[6,7,9].

Hence, HAIs prevention is now the most successful intervention, and the recognition of the magnitude of related factors to the incidence of ICU-AIs has become essential for adopting proper infection control measures and reducing the incidence of infection in hospitals especially in the ICU. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the related factors in the incidence of ICU-AI in Iran.

Materials and Methods

Data Sources

This study used the Iranian nosocomial infection surveillance (INIS) and hospital statistics and information system (AVAB) to collect data on patients with HAIs from 662 hospitals in 2018. The national infection control committee registers data to reduce mortality, morbidity, and complications of HAIs. This study used the HAIs including the following: bone and joint, central nervous system, eye, ear, nose, throat, or mouth, and UTI, VAE, SSIs, CLABSI, gastrointestinal system infections, reproductive tract infections, and skin and soft tissue infections.

The INIS collects data from approximately 863 hospitals and records different types of information in different units of each hospital including age, gender, type of HAIs, number of hospitalizations, patient-day, number of deaths, number of surgeries, date of infection, province, university, affiliated organization, devices used, and infection outcome. Additionally, performance indicators were extracted including the average LOS, occupancy rate, and bed turnover from AVAB, which is a web-based system for each hospital.

Expanded Data and Missing Data Imputation

The data including 12,586 records in terms of "hospital-ward-month" for ICU-AIs was expanded based on the 12 months of the year (13,632 records in terms of "hospital-ward-month") and then, the last observation carried forward (LOCF) method was used to replace the missing data. In the LOCF imputation, first, the data on each variable in each hospital ward was sorted in terms of months, and the last observation was replaced through the forward method; then, the data on the same variable was sorted in reversed order of the months and the last observation was replaced for the missing values through the backward method. Finally, the obtained average values in the two steps of the forward and backward methods were used as the missing data value. Additionally, the hospitals without data on the number of infections and hospitalizations (in none of the months under the study) were excluded. Final ICU-AIs include 10,836 records obtained from 579 hospitals.

The National Standard for Hospital Performance Indicators

The hospital performance indicators were categorized based on the standards of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran as follows:

Average LOS (day): <3.5 (desirable), 3.5–4 (moderate), and >4 (undesirable),

Bed occupancy rate (%): >70 (desirable), 60–70 (moderate), and <60 (undesirable),

Bed turnover rate: >24 (desirable), 17–24 (moderate), and <17 (undesirable),

Death-to-bedridden ratio (%): <2 (desirable), 2–3 (moderate), and >3 (undesirable).

Additionally, the national average rate of bed turnover (134.24) and bed occupancy (62.73) were used to plot the Pabon Lasso graphical chart. The plotted Pabon Lasso graph indicates four zones, where zone I is the inefficient area, zone II, zone III is the efficient area of the model, and zone IV.

Statistical Analysis

Mean (standard deviation), median [interquartile range (IQR)], and count (percentage) were used to describe quantitative and qualitative variables, respectively.

Generalized negative binomial regression was used with "patient-days" as an offset variable to identify the factors that affect the ICU-AIs incidence. All variables with a *p* value of <0.2 at the univariable model were entered into the multivariable regression model. Data were analyzed using the Stata (version 12) and *p*<0.05 was considered statistically significant for all statistical tests.

Results

The median age of patients was 57.5 (IQR=55.09) years. The median hospitalization length until infection and hospital LOS in the patients was 8.28 (IQR=12.8) days and 21 (IQR=21.75) days, respectively. The highest median of the number of death was observed in the internal ICU (7, IQR=10). The distributions of different variables by the type of ICU in Iran hospitals are shown in Table 1.

Totally, 22.92%, 5.76%, 13.62%, 43.41%, and 14.29% of patients were in neonatal ICU (NICU), pediatric ICU (PICU), internal ICU, general ICU, and surgical ICU (SICU), respectively. The rate of ICU-AIs was 24.6, 21.3, 20.9, 10.1, and 7.6 per 1,000 patient-days for internal ICU, general ICU, SICU, PICU, and NICU, respectively. The most common ICU-AIs were VAE (6.49 per 1,000 patient-days) and UTI (3.32 per 1,000 patient-days). Based on the hospital expertise and type, 90.53% and 63.87% of hospitals were general hospitals and medium hospitals (bed

size=100–320), respectively. Additionally, based on the Pabon Lasso model, only 13.73% of hospitals were in the efficient zone (zone III) (Table 2). Considering the performance indicators, including average LOS, bed occupancy, and bed turnover, the frequency of desirable conditions was higher in hospitals (Figure 1).

The Risk of ICU-AIs

The investigation in the relationship between ICU-AI incidence and hospital variables and indicators revealed the association in the number of death (death in HAIs patients) and increased ICU-AI incidence [incidence rate ratio (IRR)=1.02; 95% confidence interval (CI): 1.01–1.02]. Based on multivariable generalized negative binomial regression, the number of device-related infections (catheters and ventilators) was associated with a 10% increased ICU-AI incidence rate (IRR=1.1; 95% CI: 1.08–1.13). Additionally, PICU, internal ICU, general ICU, and SICU were associated with a 58%, 63%, 53%, and 47% increase ICU-AI incidence rate compared to the NICU, respectively. Considering the hospital's expertise, the largest increase in ICU-AI incidence was related to the heart hospitals (IRR=2.91; 95% CI: 2.37–3.57), accidents (IRR=2.08; 95% CI: 1.6–2.71), and pediatric hospitals (IRR=1.95; 95% CI: 1.67–2.27). Additionally, the risk of an increased ICU-AI incidence was 23% (IRR=1.23; 95% CI: 1.12–1.35) and 73% (IRR=1.73; 95% CI: 1.52–1.97) higher in hospitals with accreditation 1 and 2, respectively. Hospitals with moderate conditions in terms of bed occupancy rate indicator have a 1.17 times higher ICU-AI incidence rate than the desirable conditions (IRR=1.17; 95% CI: 1.09–1.25) (Table 3).

The univariable regression revealed that ventilator-related infections, catheter-related infections, and the number of surgery in hospitals were associated with an increased ICU-AI incidence, but these variables were not statistically significant in multivariable regression. As the hospital bed surgery turnover increases, the incidence rate of infections decreases by 1% (IRR=0.99; 95% CI: 0.99–0.99) (Table 3).

Discussion

The incidence of HAIs depends on many factors, including medical interventions, hospital factors, and personal characteristics. Additionally, it varies in different hospital wards. The longer ICU LOS and the use of invasive devices increase the rate of HAIs in these wards although the ICU has increased recovery rate and reduced mortality^[10].

Results revealed that the number of death (death in patients with HAIs), type of ICU, hospital's expertise, and bed occupancy rate indicator were associated with an increased ICU-AI incidence rate. Knowing the causes, type, and frequency of HAIs can be very effective in the optimal management and improvement of quality services. Therefore, organizing the nosocomial infection

Table 1. The distribution of different variables by the type of ICU in Iran hospitals in 2018

Variable	Hospitalization length until infection (day)	Hospital LOS (day)	Mean age	Bed occupancy rate	Bed turnover rate	Number of death	Number of surgery
NICU							
N	2484	2172	2484	2388	2388	2484	2484
Mean (SD)	10.55 (22.8)	21.83 (24)	15.44 (33.69)	69.59 (12.07)	171.05 (911.05)	12.03 (452.16)	1.98 (15.58)
Median (IQR)	6 (10)	17 (19.66)	0 (1)	70.9 (16.52)	98.63 (41.33)	1 (4)	0 (0)
PICU							
N	624	576	624	600	600	624	624
Mean (SD)	14.22 (17.1)	27.94 (24.76)	19.27 (28.97)	74.8 (10.68)	90.25 (25.63)	4.18 (4.18)	5.72 (14.82)
Median (IQR)	10 (14)	21.16 (21.5)	5 (14.61)	76.41 (13.07)	83.99 (27.38)	3 (5)	0 (4)
Internal ICU							
N	1476	1344	1476	1452	1452	1476	1476
Mean (SD)	13.33 (13.23)	29.96 (27.97)	61.68 (18.04)	70.98 (13.95)	88.52 (32.39)	9.36 (8.89)	8.22 (28.3)
Median (IQR)	10.33 (13.5)	25 (22.2)	65.6 (18.25)	73.1 (17.44)	82.45 (29.8)	7 (10)	0 (6)
General ICU							
N	4704	4368	4704	4584	4584	4704	4704
Mean (SD)	14.13 (25.17)	26.67 (29.52)	60.7 (18.99)	65.15 (16.12)	147.71 (736.67)	7.97 (7.74)	12.41 (33.29)
Median (IQR)	8.25 (13.03)	20.57 (21.5)	65.21 (23.98)	66.83 (21.23)	92.56 (40.07)	6 (8)	1 (11)
Surgical ICU							
N	1548	1416	1548	1524	1524	1548	1548
Mean (SD)	13.78 (15.33)	29.26 (23.06)	55.78 (17.5)	71.33 (11)	182.31 (988.42)	5.62 (6.1)	38.86 (84.34)
Median (IQR)	10.28 (12.25)	25.12 (22.65)	59.28 (22.36)	71.74 (16.08)	92.11 (36.11)	4 (7)	18 (53)
Total							
N	10836	9876	10836	10548	10548	10836	10836
Mean (SD)	13.15 (21.69)	26.5 (27.17)	47.37 (30.78)	68.4 (14.35)	146.58 (752.26)	8.54 (216.56)	12.84 (42.47)
Median (IQR)	8.28 (12.8)	21 (21.75)	57.5 (55.09)	69.97 (18.26)	91.75 (38.3)	4 (8)	0 (9)

NICU: Neonatal intensive care unit, PICU: Pediatric intensive care unit, ICU: Intensive care unit, LOS: Length of stay, SD: Standard deviation, IQR: Interquartile range

control committee, designing and implementing the educational programs, paying attention to the basic design of the physical structure of hospital wards, and creating motivational and attitudinal mechanisms in infection control are important factors that can reduce HAIs^[11].

Device-related infections are a leading cause of HAIs, particularly in ICUs. Additionally, catheter-related infections are the most frequent cause of hospital-acquired bacteremia and mechanical complications and are mostly preventable by establishing standard disinfection and sterilization mechanisms and implementing rigorous policies^[12,13]. Furthermore, mechanical ventilation is a commonly used mode of support in the ICU^[11,14]. This study revealed that the number of device-related infections (catheters and ventilators) was associated with a 10% increased ICU-AI incidence rate. Moreover, the most common ICU-AIs were VAE (38.6%) and UTI (19.76%), which

are mostly related to the used device. Other studies show that the important infections in the ICU include UTI, pneumonia, and bloodstream infections^[7,15,16]. Ohannessian et al.^[5] revealed that the HAI incidence rate was 14.9 per 1,000 patients-days, and pneumonia and UTI rates were 9.7 and 6.1 per 1,000 patients-days. Furthermore, Choudhuri et al.^[17] revealed that pneumonia accounted for more than a third of the observed HAIs in the ICUs. The duration of mechanical ventilation, endotracheal intubation, urinary catheterization, and ICU LOS was significantly related to ICU-AIs.

Present findings imply that device-related infections are associated with increased complications and costs. Therefore, specific preventive strategies of device-related infections, an established system of reporting and follow-up, and healthcare worker education and training on the use of invasive devices are necessary to reduce ICU-AIs.

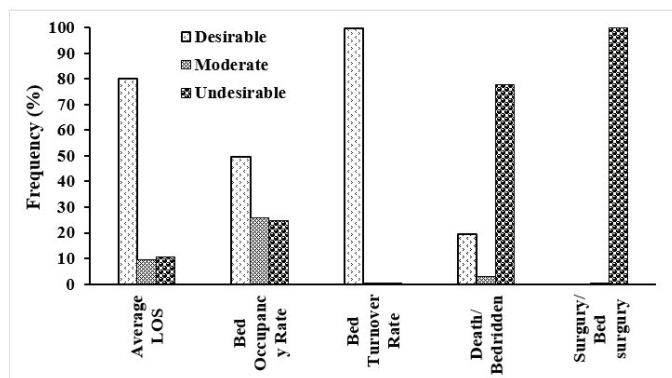


Figure 1. The frequency of hospital indicators in the intensive care unit of Iran hospitals in 2018

LOS: Length of stay

However, our study had some limitations. First, this is a retrospective study, thus some biases are possible. Second, the impact of pathogens, antimicrobial resistance, and other factors on ICU-AI incidence rate was not considered in our study and may limit our interpretation. However, this is a multicenter study and was conducted using registered data, thus it can be claimed that the results are generalizable. Additionally, this study was the first large sample size, comprehensive, and national study that evaluated the associated factors in ICU-AI incidence.

Conclusion

The results revealed that the internal ICU had the largest increased ICU-AI incidence compared to the NICU and the most common ICU-AIs were VAE and UTI. The occurrence of HAIs in medical centers is not inevitable and its control is one of the most important health goals of medical centers. Therefore, full hygiene control should be performed by all medical staff to reduce the incidence of ICU-AIs. Ventilators and catheters should be used in special circumstances with minimum duration.

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Ethics

Ethics Committee Approval: All procedures performed in the study were following the ethical standards of the National Institute for Medical Research Development Research Committee (approval ID=IR.NIMAD.REC.1399.074) and with

Table 2. The frequency of hospital variables in the ICU of Iran hospitals in 2018

Variables	N	%
Ward type	NICU	2484 22.92
	PICU	624 5.76
	Internal ICU	1476 13.62
	General ICU	4704 43.41
	Surgical ICU	1548 14.29
	Total	10836 100
Hospital type	Educational-therapy	3168 31.92
	Therapy	6132 61.79
	Educational-therapy-research	624 6.29
Total	9924 100	
Hospital expertise	General	8952 90.53
	Pediatrics	300 3.03
	Gynecology	276 2.79
	Psychiatry	36 0.36
	Trauma	48 0.49
	Cardiovascular	156 1.58
	Orthopedy	24 0.24
	Oncology	84 0.85
	Surgery	12 0.12
	Total	9888 100
Accreditation	Excellent	456 4.61
	1	8628 87.26
	2	804 8.13
	Total	9888 100
Affiliation	Government	7572 71.46
	Semi-government	528 4.98
	Profit	1992 18.8
	Non-Profit/other	504 4.76
	Total	10596 100
Hospital-based on bed size	Small (<100 bed)	1860 17.55
	Medium (100-320)	6768 63.87
	Large (320-600)	1464 13.82
	X-Large (600-1000)	456 4.3
	Hospital complex (>1000)	48 0.45
	Total	10596 100
Pabon Lasso	Zone I (not efficient)	2964 27.35
	Zone II	276 2.55
	Zone III (efficient)	1788 13.73
	Zone IV	6108 56.37
	Total	10836 100

NICU: Neonatal intensive care unit, PICU: Pediatric intensive care unit, ICU: Intensive care unit

the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

Informed Consent: Retrospective study.

Peer-review: Externally and internally peer-reviewed.

Table 3. The univariable and multivariable generalized negative binomial regression between ICU-AIs incidence and hospital variables and indicators in Iran hospitals

Variables	Univariable			Multivariable		
	IRR	95% CI	p value	IRR	95% CI	p value
Ward type						
NICU	1	-	-	1	-	-
PICU	1.88	1.72-2.05	<0.001	1.58	1.42-1.78	<0.001
Internal ICU	2.47	2.33-2.62	<0.001	1.63	1.49-1.79	<0.001
General ICU	2.33	2.22-2.44	<0.001	1.53	1.41-1.66	<0.001
Surgical ICU	2.03	1.91-2.15	<0.001	1.47	1.34-1.6	<0.001
Hospital type						
Educational-therapy	1.03	0.99-1.07	0.14	1.06	1.007-1.13	0.02
Therapy	1	-	-	1	-	-
Educational-therapy-research	1.15	1.07-1.24	<0.001	1.06	0.96-1.16	0.2
Hospital expertise						
General	2.5	2.22-2.8	<0.001	1.82	1.6-2.07	<0.001
Pediatrics	1.7	1.46-1.98	<0.001	1.95	1.67-2.27	<0.001
Gynecology	1	-	-	1	-	-
Psychiatry	1.8	1.26-2.59	0.001	1.88	0.72-4.88	0.19
Trauma	2.78	2.11-3.65	<0.001	2.08	1.6-2.71	<0.001
Cardiovascular	7.24	5.99-8.75	<0.001	2.91	2.37-3.57	<0.001
Orthopedy	1.54	0.95-2.5	0.07	0.71	0.42-1.2	0.2
Oncology	1.87	1.48-2.36	<0.001	1.76	1.37-2.27	<0.001
Surgery	1.61	0.92-2.83	0.09	1.3	0.67-2.52	0.42
Accreditation						
Excellent	1	-	-	1	-	-
1	1.21	1.12-1.32	<0.001	1.23	1.12-1.35	<0.001
2	1.66	1.49-1.85	<0.001	1.73	1.52-1.97	<0.001
Affiliation						
Government	1	-	-	-	-	-
Semi-government	0.98	0.89-1.06	0.64	-	-	-
Profit	0.91	0.86-0.95	<0.001	-	-	-
Non-Profit/other	1.04	0.95-1.14	0.28	-	-	-
Hospital-based on bed size						
Small (<100 bed)	1	-	-	1	-	-
Medium (100-320)	0.94	0.89-0.99	0.04	1.005	0.92-1.08	0.9
Large (320-600)	1.03	0.97-1.1	0.27	1.03	0.92-1.15	0.53
X-Large (600-1000)	1.13	1.03-1.24	0.005	1.02	0.88-1.19	0.73
Hospital complex (>1000)	2.4	1.93-2.99	<0.001	0.92	0.69-1.22	0.57
Referral number	1	1-1	0.05	0.99	0.99-1.001	0.53
Bed occupancy rate	0.99	0.99-0.99	<0.001	1.007	1.004-1.01	<0.001
Bed turnover rate	0.99	0.99-1	0.09	0.99	0.99-1	0.86
Bed surgery turnover	0.99	0.99-0.99	<0.001	0.99	0.99-0.99	<0.001
Personnel-to-bed ratio	0.98	0.97-1.005	0.18	1.02	0.99-1.05	0.12
Doctor-to-bed ratio	1.001	0.95-1.04	0.94	-	-	-
Nurse-to-bed ratio	1.04	0.99-1.09	0.06	0.97	0.89-1.05	0.49
Number of death	1	0.99-1	0.87	-	-	-

Number of surgery	1.0005	1.00007-1.001	0.02	0.99	0.99-1.0001	0.33
Device-day	1.00006	1.00003-1.00009	<0.001	0.99	0.99-1.0001	0.39
Catheter-day	1.00004	1.00001-1.00008	0.006	0.99	0.99-1.0001	0.31
Ventilator-day	1.0007	1.0005-1.0008	<0.001	-		
Mean age	1.007	1.006-1.008	<0.001	1.0007	0.99-1.001	0.16
hospitalization length until infection	1.0008	0.99-1.001	0.86	-		
Hospital LOS	1.0001	0.99-1	0.69	-		
Male-to-patients ratio	0.99	0.99-0.99	0.04	0.99	0.99-1.0006	0.86
Number of death (in HAIs patients)	1.09	1.08-1.09	<0.001	1.02	1.01-1.02	<0.001
Ventilator-related infections	1.09	1.09-1.1	<0.001	0.99	0.99-1.001	0.37
Catheter-related infections	1.09	1.08-1.1	<0.001	0.99	0.99-1.0001	0.24
Device-related infections	1.05	1.05-1.06	<0.001	1.1	1.08-1.13	<0.001
Pabon Lasso						
Zone I (not efficient)	1.03	0.97-1.1	0.25	-		
Zone II	0.96	0.84-1.1	0.61			
Zone III (efficient)	1	-	-			
Zone IV	1.03	0.97-1.09	0.21			
Average LOS indicator						
Desirable	1	-	-	1	-	-
Moderate	1.09	1.03-1.16	0.002	0.85	0.79-0.91	<0.001
Undesirable	1.02	0.97-1.08	0.31	0.79	0.57-1.005	0.052
Bed occupancy rate indicator						
Desirable	1	-	-	1	-	-
Moderate	1.03	0.98-1.07	0.17	1.17	1.09-1.25	<0.001
Undesirable	1.03	0.98-1.08	0.14	1.07	0.96-1.19	0.16
Bed turnover rate indicator						
Desirable	1	-	-	-		
Moderate	1.005	0.62-1.62	0.98			
Undesirable	0.9	0.53-1.54	0.72			
Death-to-bedridden ratio						
Desirable	1	-	-	-		
Moderate	0.95	0.85-1.07	0.48			
Undesirable	1.48	1.4-1.56	<0.001			

NICU: Neonatal intensive care unit, PICU: Pediatric intensive care unit, ICU: Intensive care unit, LOS: Length of stay, HAIs: Hospital-acquired infections; IRR: Incidence rate ratio, CI: Confidence interval

Authorship Contributions

Concept and Design: N.I., Y.M., K.E., B.E., S-S.H-N., Data Collection or Processing: B.E., S-S.H-N., Analysis or Interpretation: N.I., Y.M., B.E., S-S.H-N., Writing: N.I., K.E., S-S.H-N.

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