

EDITORIAL

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This special edition of the "Cadernos ESP" Journal, themed "Research and Innovation in Health: What is Being Produced in the Sesa Network Units," sheds light on innovative practices that have been transforming the public health system in Ceará. This publication reflects the commitment of healthcare professionals, residents, and researchers who, working in public health units and services, enhance the quality of care and management through research, innovation, and education.

Health innovation is one of the fundamental pillars for strengthening the Unified Health System (SUS), especially in times of rapid technological changes and growing challenges, such as an aging population and the complexity of chronic diseases. The advancement of health practices, grounded in scientific evidence and the incorporation of new technologies and management approaches, has the potential to transform the care provided to the citizens of Ceará, promoting greater efficiency, safety, and quality in the services offered.

The articles presented in this edition illustrate the breadth and diversity of innovative practices implemented in Ceará, covering both the care and management fields. From health education to comparative analysis of cesarean section rates, including the implementation of quality indicators in hospital psychology and the management of pediatric palliative care, the contributions are marked by an ongoing pursuit of continuous improvements in health care.

Innovation does not reside solely in major technological discoveries but also in small changes in practices and processes that, when incorporated into the routine of health services, produce significant impacts on the quality of care and patient experience. For example, we highlight efforts to engage patients in hand hygiene, promoting a safer environment for everyone, and the strategies adopted for fall prevention in emergency care units. These actions demonstrate that innovation can and should be understood as an essential part of the daily routine in health units.

The role of healthcare professionals as innovative agents is the central theme of this edition. These professionals, drawing from their experiences and acquired knowledge, have proven capable of creating solutions that address the demands of the local context, demonstrating that innovation is a continuous and collaborative process. Whether through the implementation of new protocols, such as those for pain management and risk classification, or through detailed analysis of complications in procedures, healthcare professionals play a central role in transforming the public health system in Ceará.

Throughout the pages of this edition, we invite you, the reader, to explore the advances that have been achieved and to reflect on the impact of these practices in improving health care. Each article published here not only documents a practice but also serves as an inspiration for innovation to become an integral part of all spheres of health care. May this edition serve as a starting point for new discussions, discoveries, and, most importantly, for the adoption of innovative practices that contribute to the continuous improvement of the public health system.

Happy reading, and come innovate with us at the Ceará School of Public Health!

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