Editorial

Dear respectful colleagues,

Welcome to the third Special Issue, a peer-reviewed open access journal examining articles in types of reviews, case reports, case studies, opinions, commentaries, policy briefs, mini-research, and any non-research articles.

After two full years of the pandemic, many issues related to post-COVID-19 life arose. In several countries, it seems that the virus has been considered endemic. Although the number of cases decreased almost worldwide compared to a year before, new cases are still being recorded. Some countries like Indonesia are uncertain whether to shift the COVID-19 from pandemic to endemic. Indonesia is still experiencing rising cases until mid-2022, especially in major provinces like Special Capital Region of Jakarta, West Java, Banten, East Java, and Bali (covid19.go.id, July 28, 2022). Therefore, health protocols should be continued, vaccination should be completed, and diagnostic tests should be carried out. Most importantly, implementing the five strategies to build community health resilience to anticipate any circumstances in the future should be prioritized. The shift from pandemic to epidemic remains a question. Post-pandemic evaluation is critical for understanding the policy’s effectiveness and the impact on the financing mechanism during the pandemic. (pp. 4-10)

Pedali.Lindungi apps which certifies users to access public facilities and displays the COVID-19 vaccination certificates, supports the Indonesian Government’s mobility restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most college students use the apps. The study shows that user’s satisfaction was influenced by perceived benefit, self-efficacy, system quality, and information quality. The apps can evaluate the user’s compliance with the vaccination program. In addition, it can be converted into a personal health record, one of the main goals proposed by the Ministry of Health. (pp.11-16)

A study evaluating the hospital’s role in dealing with the COVID-19 was very important which includes the financial scheme in taking care of the patients. Hospitals have become important centers in combating the COVID-19 cases, particularly at the district level, which accommodates many cases. The case of Bogor City, West Java Province, Indonesia showed the necessity of evaluating health financing at the hospital level by analyzing the reimbursement system and looking closely at the hospital claims calculations from reimbursement fees set by the Indonesian-Case Based Groups (INA CBGs) managed by the Social Security Administrative Body or Badan Penyelenggara Jaminan Sosial (BPJS) Kesehatan (pp.17-21). The study claimed that almost one-quarter of medical care episodes in the hospitals in Bogor City of Indonesia demonstrated a deficit financial system. It is essential to evaluate hospital claims calculations from reimbursement fees set by the INA CBGs. Further studies are encouraged to calculate the mean differences between the pre- and post-COVID-19 situations once the Indonesian government has proclaimed the COVID-19 pandemic to have passed.

The industrial sector’s activities have been crucial in dealing with the pandemic. The pandemic threatening the continuity of human activity also means impeding the industry’s productivity. A study on the prevention and control of the spread of the COVID-19 in the mining industry focused on the managerial and operational scopes of prevention and control according to the International Labour Organization guidelines. The evaluation shows that the total average score for all factors’ completion is 89.41%. The results shows that nine important critical factors could be maintained and that planning, resources, and management systems in the concentrating division have been implemented well. Workers’ active participation and awareness also support the implementation of policies and programs. The implementation of prevention and control in the industry was adequate as indicated by declining of peak numbers as soon as the policies and programs are implemented. (pp.22-29)

Vaccination is a critical method for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in every country. However, addressing people’s knowledge and beliefs is vital to getting optimum immunization coverage for the COVID-19. Misperception among people is always a possibility. A systematic review of misperceptions of the vaccine in Indonesia finds that the average response of people who receive the vaccine believe that it is an antibody that fights the virus. There is also a desire to seek accurate information on vaccines using social media. The acceptance of vaccination increases among those believing in immunization’s benefits, safety, and effectiveness. The government can affect people’s perception and acceptance of vaccines, especially those with a negative response to the
vaccination, because they concerned on their side effects, safety, and effectiveness, in which the problem emerges due to insufficient information and certainty. One main reason raised is about the halal issue of vaccine. While, others believe that the COVID-19 means a world conspiracy that could affect their future, so they rejected the vaccine. (paper Herawati Idris). (pp.30-38)

The pandemic also induced stress for all communities, especially for people living in areas with relatively high numbers of cases. This stress may have affected women’s menstrual cycles. One study shows the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on menstrual cycle regularity in reproductive-age women (pp.39-43). This study presents that the high stress induced by the pandemic is associated with an irregular menstrual cycle in reproductive-age women. There is an association between high stress and dysmenorrhea, hypomenorrhea, and menorrhagia. Healthcare personnel in constant contact with the COVID-19 cases also manifested menstrual irregularity.

The COVID-19 management mostly involved avoiding infection, treatment, preparation for funeral of the death, and contact tracing. Some pregnant women patients of COVID-19 follow with the urinary tract infections (UTIs) (pp.44-48). During the pandemic, pregnant women, one of the vulnerable groups, need to be noticed. They should have had access to health provisions, but it is not easy. They have to confirm that they are tested negative to avail of the needed services, such as routine medical checkups, to ensure their fetus’s health. A study on the significance of trimester-specific thyroid hormone reference intervals among Iraqi pregnant women found that pregnant women infected with COVID-19 had Escherichia coli as the most frequent pathogenic bacteria in their urinary system, which is also the most prevalent cause of urinary tract infection (pp.82-89). The isolated uropathogens showed high resistance to Gentamicin, Cefuroxime and Ceftriaxone and were sensitive to Ampicillin and Nitrofurantoin. It is suggested to monitor the most efficient bacteriostatic medications against pathogenic UTIs, such as Ampicillin, Amikacin, Erythromycin, and Nitrofurantoin.

Another important issue was the difficulty of accessing medical attention during the pandemic. Therefore, it is necessary to discuss the way to handle specific health problems. Some health program promotes in managing individual health could be addressed at home. Applying a self-management approach to health issues is essential. The study aimed at understanding patients’ experiences while using diabetes self-management applications (apps) (pp.75-81). The patients in this study have positive and negative perceptions of diabetes self-management apps. Their perceptions are influenced by sociocultural factors, such as the patient’s location, age, education, and motivation for getting better condition. The study also suggests to explore other stakeholders’ perceptions, such as health professionals and local or national authorities, in implementing diabetes self-management. (pp.49-53)

Parents whose children living with cancer are at risk of psychological distress. Psychological distress negatively impacts the health of patients and their families, especially during the pandemic. Several studies have mentioned that parents have experienced insomnia symptoms, such as difficulty sleeping, waking up at night, getting up early, and having trouble going back to sleep. Some have suicidal tendencies which affect their health and that of their families. Health practitioners must prioritize early cancer detection and provide efficient interventions to support parents experiencing psychological distress. Increasing information, creating peer-support groups, and promoting mental health, especially among at-risk groups like families of cancer patients, are ways to increase resilience. The study on systematic review of psychological distress among parents of children with cancer raises the issue that might be important to follow up. (pp.56-42)

The study evaluating vitamin D and anti-mullerian hormone levels in infertile Iraqi females discusses a significant correlation between anti-mullerian hormone (AMH) and vitamin D levels in both fertile and infertile females (pp.63-68). The infertile group had a high percentage of vitamin D deficiency. Therefore, routine vitamin D testing and therapy among deficient individuals to avoid ovarian reserve depletion appear ineffective. Nonetheless, vitamin D may play an important role in human reproduction, and ongoing prospective and translational research initiatives are desperately needed to investigate the possible impact of vitamin D.

There is a systematic review of coping strategies among mothers with premature babies (pp.67-74). This review aims to identify coping factors, techniques, and interventions to enhance the maternal coping. The results stated that the influential factors to the coping by mothers with premature babies are the delivery method, availability of proper information support, and maternal self-efficacy. The strategies implemented by mothers to cope with the situation are belief in God, gratefulness, a closer bond with premature babies, support-seeking, and focusing on the baby’s condition progress.

The present special issue paper will open the discussion on the pandemic and post-pandemic conditions. Evaluating the success and effect of the policy should be continuously raised to inspire more appropriate action in the future.

Finally, I am so very grateful for the invitation to express an editorial for this special issue ‘Responses to post-pandemic COVID-19, sustainable healthcare disaster and management’.
Thank you for all of the contributors and reviewers so that the article could be published on time. I would also like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Dewi Susanna, who does an outstanding job as the Editor in Chief.

Tris Eryando,
The Editorial Board Member

References