Call for Papers

Special Issue:

Technology: A Social Determinant of Health

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Social workers need to understand the importance of access to technology in ensuring access to quality health-care and prevention for all. Integrating technology into health social work practice, policy, and research has grown significantly in importance, with far-reaching implications. Social workers have begun to develop novel ways of using technology in a range of professional settings to face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the use of technology continues to expand across health social work with a diversity of populations with varying needs and concerns. Although these advances may increase resources and services for individuals who are less digitally literate, those who lack technological skills and access may be left behind. Our charge, as outlined in the Close the Health Gap Grand Challenge for Social Work, is to increase access to technology for those we serve and develop comfort and expertise in our professional functioning.

A social determinants of health (SDOH) perspective is necessary to appreciate the importance of digital literacy and internet connectivity, with technology being essential in addressing all other social determinants. This perspective is current and well aligned with the profession, as it requires consideration of larger contents such as the physical environment, education, community and social supports, economics, basic needs, and the healthcare system itself. Although the SDOH framework is commonly understood as a fundamental paradigm for health social work, recognizing that technology impacts health outcomes requires us to promote access for others and competence within our profession.

This special issue seeks articles that explore the use of technology across health social work areas through an SDOH lens and provide implications for practice, policy, and/or research. Manuscripts sought include fresh approaches to the use of technology: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods studies; policy analyses; meta-analyses and systematic reviews; instrument psychometric property research; theoretical articles; and Practice Forum and Viewpoint column contributions. **Manuscripts are due November 15, 2023**. For proper format for submission, see Information for Authors: *Health & Social Work* at https://naswpress.org/content/1411. Submit at https://hsw.msubmit.net/ (initial, onetime registration is required) and check the box for the Technology: A Social Determinant of Health special issue.