

Canadian Journal of Nursing Research (CJNR)
Author Guidelines

Canadian Journal of Nursing Research (CJNR), Canada's leading journal in nursing research and scholarship, invites manuscripts of interest to nursing and healthcare clinicians, educators, leaders, policy makers, and researchers. *CJNR* serves both the Canadian and the international nursing communities as a forum for the dissemination and communication of nursing research and scholarship. We, therefore, welcome submissions of high-quality original research and research-related manuscripts from Canadian as well as international authors.

A quarterly peer-review publication, *CJNR* accepts quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method manuscripts on a broad spectrum of topics that include, but are not limited to, nursing and health interventions across the life span, health services and health systems, social and material determinants of health, nursing education, nursing leadership, nursing measurement, family health, community and population health, palliative care, and healthy aging, systematic reviews, and research methodology. We also welcome opinions, editorials, and commentaries that are of special interest to nurse researchers.

Manuscripts will be acknowledged upon online submission. Each submission will be subject to initial vetting by the Editor-in-Chief and the assigned handling editor to determine its suitability for *CJNR* prior to subjecting it to blind peer-review by at least two reviewers.

The following guidelines are designed to assist authors with the manuscript preparation and submission process. *Manuscripts that do not conform to these guidelines will be returned to the authors without further review.*

Manuscript Preparation Guidelines

General Requirements:

- The submitted manuscript, including the abstract, tables, and reference list must be *double-spaced, left-justified with one-inch (2.54 cm) margins, and typed using size 12 Arial font.*
- Authors should avoid the inclusion of appendices in all submissions, except in rare situations where authors deem the appendix indispensable.
- All pages, including the title page and reference list, must be numbered using Arabic numerals (i. e., 1, 2, 3, etc.).
- To facilitate the review process, insert line numbers on all pages of the manuscript. Include a short title (no more than 50 characters) as a header on all pages, including the title page, for the purposes of double-blind peer-review.

- The entire manuscript (including tables, figures, and references) must be prepared according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA Style Manual 7th edition).
- All listed references must match the citations in the text and vice versa.
- Authors are required to provide the names and contact information of three peer reviewers who have expertise in the topic area but are at arm's length from the submitting authors. Our editors will verify the suitability and qualifications of the suggested reviewers; and they *may* select up to one of the recommended reviewers.
- All manuscripts will be considered for publication on the understanding that they a) have not been published or b) are submitted solely to *CJNR*.
- Authors of manuscripts that are accepted for publication will be asked to review proof copies after copy editing and before publication.

Authors may refer to the information and guidance on how best to title their manuscript, write their abstract, and select their keywords by visiting the SAGE Journal Author Gateway for guidelines on [How to Help Readers Find Your Manuscript Online](#).

Title Page

Includes a stand-alone title page covering the title of the manuscript, as well as the authors' names, credentials, professional affiliations, and email addresses. The corresponding author must provide additional contact information that includes his/her business telephone number and current mailing address.

Abstract

Write the abstract on a separate page. Abstracts must not exceed 250 words. Research abstracts must be structured with headings that include the study background, purpose, methods, results, and conclusions. Non-research abstracts should be presented in the form of 1-2 unstructured paragraphs.

Keywords

Provide 4-6 keywords to highlight the main concepts and the scope of the manuscript. Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) terms are useful but not required.

Main Text

Prepare the manuscript according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA Style Manual 7th edition). All content must be double-spaced, including references, quotations, tables, and figures. Please refer to the specific guidelines below for instructions on the expected headings and maximum length of manuscripts.

Tables and Figures

Tables and figures must not be embedded in the main text of the manuscript. Rather, they should be submitted on separate pages/files. The maximum number of tables is 3 and the maximum number of figures is 3. Tables and figures must be prepared using simple text files such as Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel (images files such as GIF and PNG files will not be accepted).

Figures supplied in colour will appear in colour online regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in colour in the printed version. For specifically requested colour reproduction in print, authors will receive information from SAGE regarding the costs after receipt of their accepted article.

Acknowledgement

Authors may acknowledge contributions of individuals and/or institutions to the work that led to the submitted manuscript.

Declaration of Conflicting Interest

It is the policy of *CJNR* to require a declaration of conflicting interests from all authors enabling a statement to be carried within the paginated pages of all published articles.

Please ensure that a 'Declaration of Conflicting Interests' statement is included at the end of your manuscript, after any acknowledgements and prior to the references. If no conflict exists, please state that 'The Author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest.'

For guidance on conflict of interest statements, please see the ICMJE recommendations [here](#).

Funding

Authors are required to declare any financial support or funding they received to carry out their research. Such declaration needs to include the source and funding number (if available) of the research funding.

Reference List

Prepare citations and references according to the APA 7th edition guidelines. Limit citations and references to the most relevant sources.

For additional information, see Manuscript Submission Guidelines at the [SAGE Journal Author Gateway](#) website.

Supplementary Material

This journal is able to host additional materials online (e.g., datasets, podcasts, videos, images, etc.) alongside the full-text of the article. These supplementary materials will be subjected to peer-review alongside the article. For more information, please refer to our guidelines on submitting supplementary files, which can be found within our [Manuscript Submission Guidelines](#) page.

Specific Guidelines

I. Research and Research Methods Manuscripts

Research manuscripts are original reports on findings of primary studies or secondary data analyses that are specific to the advancement of evidence-based nursing practice and/or knowledge, including knowledge generation, dissemination, and translation. All submissions reporting on studies that involve human subjects must indicate approval from a Research Ethics Board or an Institutional Review Board.

Research manuscripts include:

Original Research Reports

These manuscripts report original research findings with the purpose of advancing nursing knowledge and practice. *CJNR* equally values and welcomes high quality quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research that informs nursing in Canada and internationally. The main text of original research reports is limited to a maximum of 20 double-spaced pages for quantitative manuscripts and 25 double-spaced pages for qualitative and mixed methods manuscripts (excluding the cover page, abstract, tables, and references).

Research Methodology

Such scholarly manuscripts address important issues pertaining to the planning, design, implementation, and dissemination of research in nursing with the intention of expanding nursing knowledge about quantitative, qualitative, or mixed research methodology and data analysis. Research methodology manuscripts should provide an in-depth discussion of issues that may negatively or positively influence the planning and conduct of nursing research. Manuscripts pertaining to the planning and conduct of major research studies, and those reporting on the development and testing of psychometric measures are also appropriate. The main text of research methodology manuscripts is limited to a maximum of 20 double-spaced pages (excluding the title page, abstract, tables, and references).

Systematic Reviews

Systematic reviews include knowledge synthesis manuscripts such as scoping reviews, integrative reviews, meta-analysis, and meta-synthesis. Systematic and scoping reviews are to be prepared according to the [PRISMA Statement](#) on systematic reviews or [PRISMA-ScR](#) on scoping reviews, respectively. Although narrative reviews are not a high priority to *CJNR*, they may be considered under strict circumstances if sufficient evidence is provided to justify the use of this approach. The main text of systematic reviews is limited to a maximum of 20 double-spaced pages

(excluding the title page, abstract, tables, and references).

Quality Improvement

Although not strictly research, *CJNR* welcomes reports on systematic, quality improvement projects with a special interest to nursing. We strongly recommend that QI authors follow the [Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence \(SQUIRE\) guidelines](#) for publication of evidence-based QI manuscripts. The main text of quality improvement manuscripts is limited to

a maximum of 20 double-spaced pages (excluding the title page, abstract, tables, and references).

All research and research methodology manuscripts are expected to conform to the following headings:

Background & Purpose:

This section clearly highlights the relevance and significance of the study for nursing. It also highlights the problem statement/phenomenon of interest leading to the research and clearly indicates the purpose(s) of the research.

Methods and Procedures:

This section provides a clear description of the study design, setting and sample, protection of human subjects, data collection procedures, and data analysis procedures.

Results:

This section presents the main results of the study without discussion of these findings

Discussion:

This section involves a general discussion of the study findings, including study recommendations and limitations.

Conclusion:

This section synthesizes the main conclusions and highlights the readers' take-home message.

II. Opinions, Short Editorials, and Commentaries:

CJNR welcomes scholarly opinions, letters to the editor, and commentaries that are intended to generate a healthy debate over issues pertaining to the planning, implementation, and dissemination of nursing research. These precise writings (maximum 850 words long) are subject to review and approval by the Editor in Chief.

Submitting Manuscripts

Please submit manuscripts to: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/CJNR>

Please check whether you already have an account in the system before trying to create a new one. If you have reviewed or authored for the journal in the past year, it is likely that you currently have an account.

Peer Review Policy

CJNR adheres to a rigorous double-blind reviewing policy in which the identity of both the reviewer and author are always concealed from both parties.

The Editor-in-Chief or members of the Editorial Board may occasionally submit their own manuscripts for possible publication in the journal. In these cases, the submitting editor will be blinded to the review process and will not be involved in the handling or decision-making process.

Responding to Reviewers' Comments

Research manuscripts are rarely accepted for publication without revisions based on the expert opinion of the blinded reviewers. Such revisions are meant to maximize the methodological and content rigour of all *CJNR* publications. We advise our authors to respond to reviewers' comments on a point by point basis, using a four-column table (comment number, reviewer's comment, author's response, and page and line where the comment has been addressed). To facilitate the assessment of completed revisions, we encourage authors to highlight all changes to the revised submission using either track changes or a different font colour. Resubmission of revised manuscripts shall not exceed *six weeks* from the request-to-revise notification date.

Publication Ethics

SAGE and *CJNR* are committed to upholding the integrity of the academic record. As a member of the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#), *CJNR* encourages authors to refer to the Committee's [International Standards for Authors](#) and to view the Publication Ethics page on the [SAGE Author Gateway](#). These guidelines conform to the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals from the International Council of Medical Journal Editors (www.icmje.org).

Prior Publication

If material has been previously published it is not generally acceptable for publication in a SAGE journal. However, there are certain circumstances where previously published material can be considered for publication. Please refer to the guidance on the [SAGE Author Gateway](#) or, if in doubt, contact the Editor-in-Chief at the address given below.

Plagiarism

CJNR and SAGE take issues of copyright infringement, plagiarism, or other breaches of best practice in publication very seriously. We seek to protect the rights of our authors and we always investigate claims of plagiarism or misuse of published manuscripts. Equally, we seek to protect the reputation of the journal against malpractice. Submitted manuscripts may be checked with duplication-checking software. Where a manuscript, for example, is found to have plagiarized other work or included third-party copyright material without permission or with insufficient acknowledgement, or where the authorship of the manuscript is contested, we reserve the right to take action including, but not limited to: publishing an erratum or corrigendum (correction); retracting the manuscript; taking up the matter with the head of department or dean of the author's institution and/or relevant academic bodies or societies; and/or taking appropriate legal action.

Case Studies/Reports

Clinical and procurement case studies must include an unidentifiable patient profile with a history of the disease and clinical problems. A discussion of clinical management should describe the flow of events followed by a summary that includes the outcome. Application of knowledge gained from this problem should be addressed. Patient or family consent is required for the publication of case studies. A written copy of consent must be submitted prior to

publication and will be kept on file with the publisher and Editor-in-Chief.

Protection of Patients' Rights to Privacy

Patient privacy must be protected in publishing. Identifying details should be avoided unless the information is essential to scientific understanding and the patient or family has given written informed consent. Include a signed statement of informed consent to publish (in print and online) case reports, patient descriptions, photographs, and pedigrees from all persons (parents or legal guardians for minors) who can be identified. Such persons should be given an opportunity to read the manuscript before its submission. Authors must provide a statement in the manuscript about obtaining informed consent for case reports.

Research Ethics and Patient Consent

Medical research involving human subjects must be conducted according to the [World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki](#).

Submitted manuscripts should conform to the [ICMJE Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#), and all papers reporting animal and/or human studies must state in the methods section that the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board provided (or waived) approval. Please ensure that you have provided the full name and institution of the review committee, in addition to the approval number.

For research articles, authors are also required to state in the methods section whether participants provided informed consent and whether the consent was written or verbal. Information on informed consent to report individual cases or case series should be included in the manuscript text. A statement is required regarding whether written informed consent for patient information and images to be published was provided by the patient(s) or a legally authorized representative.

Please also refer to the [ICMJE Recommendations for the Protection of Research Participants. Reporting of Randomized Controlled Trials \(RCTs\)](#)

CJNR endorses the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT), which provides researchers with a standardized method for reporting clinical trials. A 25-item checklist for preparing research reports is available at www.consort-statement.org. Authors preparing manuscripts for *CJNR* are encouraged to follow these guidelines in reporting RCT research findings.

Funding

CJNR requires all authors to acknowledge their funding in a consistent fashion under a separate "Funding" heading. Please visit the Funding Acknowledgements page on the SAGE Journal Author Gateway (<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/page/journal-author-gateway>) to confirm the format of the acknowledgment text in the event of funding, or state that: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Authorship Requirements

All persons listed as authors must have (1) participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for the content; (2) made substantial contributions to the conception and design or analysis and interpretation of data, and to drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and (3) given final approval of the version of the manuscript to be published. Requests to remove authors after submission are discouraged and are subject to approval of the Editor-in-Chief who may request the written consent of the removed author. Addition of authors to revised submissions shall be justified in writing with highlight of the substantive contributions of the added author(s).

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Authors should meet the conditions of all of the points above. When a large, multicentre group has conducted the work, the group should identify the individuals who accept direct responsibility for the manuscript. These individuals should fully meet the criteria for authorship. Refer to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) authorship guidelines for more information on authorship.

Acknowledgements

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The Editorial Board of *CJNR* does not provide extensive English editing services. Thus, we expect that all submissions are clearly written and that they meet high English language standards. Authors seeking assistance with English language editing, translation, or figure and manuscript formatting to fit the journal's specifications should consider using SAGE Language Services. Visit [SAGE Language Services](#) on our Journal Author Gateway for further information. It is not necessary to disclose the use of language polishing services.

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On Acceptance and Publication

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Access to Published Manuscripts: SAGE provides authors with online access to their final manuscript.

Online First Publication: Online First allows final revision manuscripts (completed manuscripts in

queue for assignment to an upcoming issue) to be published online prior to their inclusion in a final journal issue, which significantly reduces the lead time between submission and publication. For more information please visit our [Online First Fact Sheet](#).

Please address questions regarding manuscript submission to

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Authors who wish to explore the suitability of their work to the journal may precede the submission with an email to the Editor in Chief, Dr. Maher El-Masri, at maher.elmasri@ryerson.ca with a description of the scope and nature of the manuscript (please include an abstract with a clear description of the research methodology, data analysis procedures, results, and conclusions).