Implementation Research and Practice Article Types

We will publish original quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods *research*, presentations on innovative *methodologies*, *reviews,* and *short reports*. The majority of the journal content will include empirical studies. The journal will also publish *conceptual* papers that present a novel theoretical model, as well as *viewpoints* provided that the manuscript offers an engaging perspective not available elsewhere in the literature. Because widely accepted research methods are still emerging within the field of implementation science, we will be particularly interested in descriptions of novel research designs (new approaches to data collection), methodologies for measurement of key implementation constructs, and analytic approaches for implementation-relevant data. We welcome manuscripts that describe and evaluate the effectiveness of implementation strategies, particularly fully powered trials. We encourage manuscripts that place emphasis on contributing to identifying mechanisms of change for such strategies. The latter may include tests of existing theories, frameworks, or elements of either. We also encourage publication of community-driven *practical implementation evaluations*, authored or coauthored by implementation practitioners (i.e., agency directors, funders, and policy makers) or intermediaries (i.e., purveyors, trainers, facilitators, or consultants), and describing planned and systematic organizational or practice change, provided that these evaluations adhere to established case study methodologies and contribute to the science of implementation.

Research: Research articles should report original primary research. We strongly encourage that all datasets (particularly quantitative) on which the conclusions of the paper rely be available to readers. Datasets should either be deposited in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate) or presented in the main manuscript or additional supporting files. Empirical research must report methods and results of rigorous evaluations of implementation efforts, and document full details of intervention strategies, contexts, methods and findings. Maximum 5500 words.

Methodology: To continuously advance the field of implementation research, new methods are needed. Methodology-based manuscripts should present innovative or enhanced research methods. Research methods may include data collection approaches, experimental or observational study methods, computational methods, statistical tests or data analysis approaches. Methodology manuscripts should clearly describe how the method adds value to the field. For example, how the method is able to address a unique (set of) scientific aim(s) related to implementation, or how the method is able to address a unique (set of) challenge(s) within the complex context in which implementation strategies are conducted. Methods should be articulated with a concrete example or case study. If there are competing methods, the article must describe improvements over existing methods. Maximum 5500 words.

Review: Reviews provide comprehensive and authoritative coverage of a topic area and may engage one of many rigorous approaches (e.g., scoping, narrative, systematic, realist, comprehensive). The key aims of reviews are to provide rigorous and substantial coverage of mature subjects, evaluations of progress in specified areas, and/or critical assessments of emerging implementation strategies. Maximum 5500 words.

Short Report: Short reports are an optimal article type for compelling findings of studies that might have been limited methodologically, discrete/focused findings that do not require significant discussion, and research that incrementally extends previously published work. Rapid evidence reviews will also be acceptable as a short report, provided rigorous and systematic methodologies are employed and carefully described. Maximum 2500 words.

Conceptual Paper: Conceptual articles have a goal of developing models, theories, or frameworks and/or foundations of implementation strategies, for instance. These articles typically engage in careful review to base theories on extant literature and empirical work. Conceptual papers should not be conflated with a debate or position paper, which our journal is not accepting at this time as they are better suited for the viewpoint articles. Maximum 5500 words.

*Viewpoint***:** Short, focused articles of contemporary interest are welcomed. The viewpoint article is more editorial in nature and covers an aspect of an issue that is relevant to the journal's scope. Examples of viewpoints could be a discussion of the impact of new technology on implementation, or a discussion of changes in policy and their effect on implementation research, a debated perspective on a key issue, or a call to action for the field to shift directions or focus. Viewpoints may sometimes be commissioned, but unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed.

Practical Implementation Report: A Practical Implementation Report is a report summarizing a community-driven implementation, conducted by an implementation practitioner (i.e., agency directors, funders, and policy makers) or intermediary (i.e., purveyors, trainers, facilitators, or consultants), and describing systematic organizational or practice change, provided that these descriptions contribute to the science of implementation. Practical Implementation Reports should clearly describe what implementation strategy (or strategies) were used to enact this change. Practical Implementation Reports must include a future directions section within the discussion intended to guide the development of new methodologies, measures, or research questions. Maximum 5500 words.