

Intended for healthcare professionals

# Sage Journals

## DIGITAL HEALTH

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## Key information

**Access:** Open Access

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**Accepts preprints?** Yes

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## Publishing fees and open access

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If, after peer review, your manuscript is accepted for publication, a one-time article processing charge (APC) is payable to cover the cost of publishing, paid by the funder, institution, or author. There is no charge for submitting a manuscript.

The article processing charge (APC) is \$3200 .

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## Preparing your manuscript for submission

Your article must be within the scope of the journal and be of sufficient quality. If not, it will not be reviewed. Please read the journal's [Aims and Scope](#) to see if your article is appropriate.

The manuscript must be your original work, you must have the rights to the work, and you must have obtained and be able to supply all necessary permissions for the reproduction of any copyright works not owned by you, including figures, illustrations, tables, lengthy quotations, or other material previously published elsewhere.

### Article types

#### Original Research Article

Research Articles should present novel work within the scope of the journal which represents an important advancement in knowledge or understanding. Research articles need to include an introduction, a well-reported methodology, results, and a discussion of the results in the context of the published literature. Manuscripts must include a structured abstract of 250 words maximum. We recommend authors consult the EQUATOR network website (<https://www.equator-network.org/>) to ensure they follow the correct reporting guidelines for their paper.

#### Brief Report

Brief reports are shorter than original research and describe original research findings that do not require a full-length paper. They should share empirical findings from a small-scale pilot, preliminary, or exploratory research. Manuscripts need to include an introduction, a well-reported methodology, results, and a discussion of the results in the context of the published literature. Manuscripts must include a structured abstract of 250 words maximum. We recommend authors consult the EQUATOR network website (<https://www.equator-network.org/>) to ensure they follow the correct reporting guidelines for their paper.

#### Review

A critical and comprehensive review of current relevant literature, identifying limitations in knowledge and a rationale for the study. The main aim of having such pieces is to offer readers an opportunity to understand the significance of developments in areas of the discipline of which they might otherwise be unaware. Manuscripts should include an abstract of 250 words maximum. The recommended word limit is 8,000 words.

### **Case Report**

Case Reports describe a potentially unusual or interesting case in the course of standard or normal clinical practice. Case reports should be structured for peer review as follows: Abstract, Introduction (explaining the importance of the case), Case Description (providing all relevant information), and Conclusions (describing the detailed outcome of the report), followed by Acknowledgements, Funding acknowledgements, Declaration of Conflict of Interest, Patient Consent Statement, References, and figure and table legends. Manuscripts should include an unstructured abstract of 250 words maximum. Articles should not exceed 1,500 words.

For more in-depth investigations of the circumstances of an event or events, please submit a Case Study.

### **Case Study**

Case studies are focused, in-depth explorations of the case's circumstances, the function of which is to develop a complete description of the case within the larger body of research. Authors may conduct interviews, review related records and documents to build a critical analysis of the case outcome. Manuscripts should include an unstructured abstract of 250 words maximum. Articles should not exceed 2,500 words.

### **Study Protocol**

Also known as Trial design articles, study protocols can cover proposed or ongoing research for protocols of registered trials. Information on trial registration (where applicable) and ethics approval should be included in the manuscript. Manuscripts must include a structured abstract of 250 words maximum. We recommend authors consult the EQUATOR network website (<https://www.equator-network.org/>) to ensure they follow the correct reporting guidelines for their paper.

### **Perspective**

Also known as Commentaries, Debate, Opinion, these may include:

- Brief contributions on controversial issues likely to generate debate between colleagues with different outlooks and opinions, or to develop original perspectives.
- Brief, thoughtful communications on current issues pertinent to the patient experience. Perspectives provide a timely, new insight on implications within the broad domain of patient experience. Authors should be experts in their fields, include an element of opinion, and provide a certain depth of analysis and argument. These are not research reports, or promotional pieces about an organization, product, or program.
- Perspectives highlighting important issues and experiences in child neurology through personal vignettes or opinion essays. Topics can include ethics, research, health policy, public health, medical education and the experience of medicine and the patient-physician relationship.

Manuscripts should not exceed 2,000 words. No abstract is required.

### **Commentary**

Also known as Viewpoint, Short Communication, Article Commentary, these may include:

- Commentaries discuss the findings, implications, and/or outcomes of specific research or wider research on a general topic. They elaborate on or offer original ideas about a specific paper or a widely-researched subject. Commentaries differ from reviews in that they present the author's original ideas and suggestions instead of only collating and reporting the previous research.
- Commentaries provide readers with a focused opinion/view of manuscripts recently published in the journal or elsewhere, or on important changes or trends related to the field.

Manuscripts should not exceed 2,000 words. No abstract is required.

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An introductory piece submitted by an Academic Editor providing insight into the topic of the thematic issue, otherwise written by the journal's editor as an introduction to any standard issue. By invitation only. Articles should not exceed 2,000 words.

### **Letter to the Editor**

Submit letters if you wish to make corrections, provide alternative viewpoints, or offer counter arguments. These must be written in a professional tone and include

references to support all claims if appropriate. Letters to the Editor should consist of one or two paragraphs totalling no more than 500 words, no abstract, no subheadings and fewer than 8 references (one author, et al., no titles). If an abstract is included, it will automatically be made the first paragraph. Letters should not include figures or research material. Letters to the Editor should be submitted through our usual submission process, but if accepted, will not be charged an APC.

### Clinical trial registration

The journal conforms to the [ICMJE requirement](#) that clinical trials are registered in a [WHO-approved public trials registry](#) at or before the time of first participant enrollment as a condition of consideration for publication. The trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

### Reporting guidelines

Your manuscript **must** follow the relevant [EQUATOR Network reporting guidelines](#), depending on the type of study. The [EQUATOR wizard](#) can help identify the appropriate guideline. You will need to upload the appropriate checklist with your submission.

Other resources can be found at [NLM's Research Reporting Guidelines and Initiatives](#).

If your research involves animals, you will be asked to confirm that you have carefully read and adhered to the [ARRIVE guidelines](#).

### Formatting your manuscript

#### Accepted file types

The preferred format for your manuscript is Word. You do not need to follow a template, but please ensure your heading levels are clear, and the sections clearly defined.

The LaTeX files are also accepted. A LaTeX template is available on the [Sage Journal Author Gateway](#).

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title

Your manuscript's title should be concise, descriptive, unambiguous, accurate, and reflect the precise contents of the manuscript. A descriptive title that includes the topic of the manuscript makes an article more findable in the major indexing services.

### Abstract

Please include a structured abstract of 250 words between the title and main body of your manuscript that concisely states the purpose of the research, major findings, and conclusions. If your research includes clinical trials, the trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract. Submissions that do not meet this requirement will not be considered.

For clinical trials, the trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

This journal includes video abstracts. For more information on how to prepare a plain language summary, [please see this page](#).

### Keywords

Please include a minimum of 5 keywords, listed after the abstract. Keywords should be as specific as possible to the research topic.

### Artwork, figures, and other graphics

For guidance on the preparation of illustrations, pictures, and graphs in electronic format, please read Sage's [artwork guidelines](#).

Figures supplied in color will appear in color online.

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If you are including an Acknowledgments section, this will be published at the end of your article. The Acknowledgments section should include all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship. Per [ICMJE recommendations](#), it is best practice to obtain consent from non-author contributors who you are acknowledging in your manuscript.

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#### Author contributions

As part of our commitment to ensuring an ethical, transparent and fair peer review and publication process, this journal has adopted [CRediT \(Contributor Roles Taxonomy\)](#). CRediT is a high-level taxonomy, including 14 roles, which is used to describe each author's individual contributions to the work.

You will be asked to list the contribution of each author as part of the submission process. Please include the Author Contributions heading within your submission after the Acknowledgements section. The information you give on submission will then show under the Author Contributions heading later at the proofing stage.

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Please include a section with the heading 'Statements and Declarations' at the end of your submitted article, after the Acknowledgements section [and Author Contributions section if applicable] including each of the sub-headings listed below. If a declaration is not applicable to your submission, you must still include the heading and state 'Not applicable' underneath. Please note that you may be asked to justify why a declaration was not applicable to your submission by the Editorial Office.

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#### Declaration of conflicting interest

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All articles need to include a funding statement, under a separate heading, **even if you did not receive funding**. You'll find guidance and examples on our [Funding](#) page.

#### Data availability

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Subject to appropriate ethical and legal considerations, authors are encouraged to:

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## Peer review policy

The following summary describes the peer review process for this journal:

Identity transparency: Single Anonymized

Reviewer interacts with: Editor

Review information published: None

Your manuscript will undergo an initial evaluation. If it does not conform to the requirements laid out in these guidelines, it will be returned to you for amendments prior to peer review. Manuscripts may be desk rejected without peer review at this point if they are out of scope for the journal or otherwise unsuitable.

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### Further resources

The Sage Journal Author Gateway has some general advice on [how to get published](#), plus links to further resources. [Sage Author Services](#) also offers authors a variety of ways to improve and enhance your article including English language editing, plagiarism detection, and video abstract and infographic preparation.

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### Contact us

You can direct any questions to the journal's editorial office: Philippa Stevens

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