

Intended for healthcare professionals

Sage Journals

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health

Impact Factor: 2.1

5-Year Impact Factor: 2.9

Submission guidelines



Submit manuscript

Please read the guidelines in full before submitting your manuscript. Manuscripts not conforming to these guidelines may be returned.

Submit Manuscript 

Manuscript Submission Guidelines: *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*

This Journal is a member of the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#).

This Journal recommends that authors follow the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#) formulated by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).

Please read the guidelines below then visit the Journal's submission site <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/spub> to upload your manuscript. Please note that manuscripts not conforming to these guidelines may be returned.

Only manuscripts of sufficient quality that meet the aims and scope of *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health* will be reviewed.

There are no fees payable to submit or publish in this Journal. Open Access options are available - see section 3.3 below. Lengthy articles may be subject to page charges upon publication. Please see section 1.2 for more details.

As part of the submission process you will be required to warrant that you are submitting original work, that you have the rights in the work, that you are submitting the work for publication in the Journal and that it is not being considered for publication elsewhere

and has not already been published elsewhere, and that you have obtained and can supply all necessary permissions for the reproduction of any copyright works not owned by you.

1. [What do we publish?](#)
 - 1.1 [Aims & Scope](#)
 - 1.2 [Article types](#)
 - 1.3 [Writing your paper](#)
2. [Editorial policies](#)
 - 2.1 [Peer review policy](#)
 - 2.2 [Authorship](#)
 - 2.3 [Acknowledgements](#)
 - 2.4 [Funding](#)
 - 2.5 [Declaration of conflicting interests](#)
 - 2.6 [Research ethics and patient consent](#)
 - 2.7 [Clinical trials](#)
 - 2.8 [Reporting guidelines](#)
 - 2.9 [Data](#)
3. [Publishing policies](#)
 - 3.1 [Publication ethics](#)
 - 3.2 [Contributor's publishing agreement](#)
 - 3.3 [Open access and author archiving](#)
4. [Preparing your manuscript](#)
 - 4.1 [Formatting](#)
 - 4.2 [Artwork, figures and other graphics](#)
 - 4.3 [Supplementary material](#)
 - 4.4 [Reference style](#)
 - 4.5 [English language editing services](#)
 - 4.6 [Layout](#)
 - 4.7 [Accessibility Guidelines](#)
5. [Submitting your manuscript](#)
 - 5.1 [ORCID](#)
 - 5.2 [Information required for completing your submission](#)
 - 5.3 [Permissions](#)
6. [On acceptance and publication](#)
 - 6.1 [Sage Production](#)
 - 6.2 [Online First publication](#)
 - 6.3 [Access to your published article](#)
 - 6.4 [Promoting your article](#)
7. [Further information](#)



What do we publish?

1.1 Aims & Scope

Before submitting your manuscript to Scandinavian Journal of Public Health, please ensure you have read the [Aims & Scope](#).

1.2 Article Types

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health publishes original research, review and study design articles on all aspects of public health. The Journal considers the following kinds of article for publication:

1. 1. Original articles, describing new experimental findings.
Word limit: 3000 words. This does not include text in the abstract, headings, references, figures and tables. Original articles can contain a maximum of 30 references and five figures/tables. For manuscripts exceeding five printed pages (including abstract, tables, figures and references) the charge is £80 GBP or \$100 USD (excluding VAT) per excess page. As a guide, one journal page is approximately 800 words.
2. Literature Review articles. *Word limit: 6000 words and 60 references. This limit does not include text in the abstract, headings, references, figures and tables. For manuscripts exceeding five printed pages (including abstract, tables, figures and references) the charge is £80 GBP or \$100 USD (excluding VAT) per excess page. As a guide, one journal page is approximately 800 words.*
3. Design articles. The Editors wish to encourage the submission of study design articles. These articles should include the rationale for the study, design and measurement procedures, population and sample size considerations and some basic characteristics of the study. The articles should end with a discussion on the potential of the study.
These articles should not normally exceed 3000 words. The word limit does not include text in the abstract, headings, references, figures and tables. For manuscripts exceeding five printed pages (including abstract, tables, figures and references) the charge is £80 GBP or \$100 USD (excluding VAT) per excess page. As a guide, one journal page is approximately 800 words.
4. Letters to the Editors. The decision to publish is made by the Editors.
Word limit: 800 words
5. Short communications, Debate articles.
Word limit: 1200 words and have no more than 3 tables/figures.
6. Supplements. Thematic sets of papers, symposium reports as well other documents of Public Health relevance may be published as supplements, the full cost being borne by the authors. Please contact the Editorial Office for further information.
7. Glossary. Manuscripts containing definitions of relevant terms in a defined field of public health, which relate to one of the key areas of SJPH ([see Aims & Scope](#)

[here](#)). Longer glossaries may be considered in agreement with the E-i-C.

8. Commentary. Manuscripts either in the form of a critical analysis of an article published in the journal or in the form of a research piece presenting new thoughts (either conceptually, theoretically or methodologically) related to one or several of the key areas of the journal ([see Aims & Scope here](#)).

1.3 Writing your paper

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

1.3.1 Make your article discoverable

When writing up your paper, think about how you can make it discoverable. The title, keywords and abstract are key to ensuring readers find your article through search engines such as Google. For information and guidance on how best to title your article, write your abstract and select your keywords, have a look at this page on the Gateway: [How to Help Readers Find Your Article Online](#).

[Back to top](#)

2. Editorial policies

2.1 Peer review policy

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health operates a conventional single-blind reviewing policy in which the reviewer's name is always concealed from the submitting author. Decisions of publication of full length original contributions are generally reviewed by at least two external reviewers. All manuscripts are reviewed as quickly as possible, we endeavour to reach an editorial decision within 3 months, though on average it takes just 30 days to reach a decision.

Authors are requested to suggest the names, affiliations and contact information, including email address, of 3-4 individuals who may be suitable to serve as reviewers. These individuals should have no conflict of interest, i.e. close links with the study or author and preferably be from a different country to the author(s). However, the Editors are under no obligation to use any of the suggested individuals as reviewers.

All manuscripts are reviewed initially by the Editors and only those papers that meet the scientific and editorial standards of the journal, and fit within the aims and scope of the journal will be sent for outside review.

Recommended Reviewers

As part of the submission process you will be asked to provide the names of peers who could be called upon to review your manuscript. Recommended reviewers should be experts in their fields and should be able to provide an objective assessment of the manuscript. Please be aware of any conflicts of interest when recommending reviewers. Examples of conflicts of interest include (but are not limited to) the below:

As part of the submission process you will be asked to provide the names of peers who could be called upon to review your manuscript. Recommended reviewers should be experts in their fields and should be able to provide an objective assessment of the manuscript. Please be aware of any conflicts of interest when recommending reviewers. Examples of conflicts of interest include (but are not limited to) the below:

- - The reviewer should have no prior knowledge of your submission
 - The reviewer should not have recently collaborated with any of the authors
 - Reviewer nominees from the same institution as any of the authors are not permitted

Please note that the Editors are not obliged to invite any recommended/opposed reviewers to assess your manuscript.

2.2 Authorship

Papers should only be submitted for consideration once consent is given by all contributing authors. Those submitting papers should carefully check that all those whose work contributed to the paper are acknowledged as contributing authors.

The list of authors should include all those who can legitimately claim authorship. This is all those who:

1.
 1. Made a substantial contribution to the concept or design of the work; or acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data,
 2. Drafted the article or revised it critically for important intellectual content,
 3. Approved the version to be published,
 4. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content.

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.



Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute authorship, although all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in the Acknowledgments section. Please refer to the [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors \(ICMJE\) authorship guidelines](#) for more information on authorship.

Please note that AI chatbots, for example ChatGPT, should not be listed as authors. For more [information see the policy on Use of ChatGPT and generative AI tools](#).

2.3 Acknowledgements

All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed in an Acknowledgements section. Examples of those who might be acknowledged include a person who provided purely technical help, or a department chair who provided only general support.

Any acknowledgements should appear first at the end of your article prior to your Declaration of Conflicting Interests (if applicable), any notes and your References.

2.3.1 *Third party submissions*

Where an individual who is not listed as an author submits a manuscript on behalf of the author(s), a statement must be included in the Acknowledgements section of the manuscript and in the accompanying cover letter. The statements must:

- Disclose this type of editorial assistance – including the individual's name, company and level of input
- Identify any entities that paid for this assistance
- Confirm that the listed authors have authorized the submission of their manuscript via third party and approved any statements or declarations, e.g. conflicting interests, funding, etc.

Where appropriate, Sage reserves the right to deny consideration to manuscripts submitted by a third party rather than by the authors themselves.

2.3.2 *Writing assistance*

Individuals who provided writing assistance, e.g. from a specialist communications company, do not qualify as authors and so should be included in the Acknowledgements section. Authors must disclose any writing assistance – including the individual's name, company and level of input – and identify the entity that paid for this assistance. It is not necessary to disclose use of language polishing services.

2.4 Funding

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health requires all authors to acknowledge their funding in a consistent fashion under a separate heading. Please visit the [Funding Acknowledgements](#) page on the Sage 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.

2.5 Declaration of conflicting interests

It is the policy of *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health* 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](#).

2.6 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](#).

All research involving animals submitted for publication must be approved by an ethics committee with oversight of the facility in which the studies were conducted. The Journal

has adopted the [ARRIVE](#) guidelines.

2.7 Clinical trials

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health conforms to the [ICMJE requirement](#) that clinical trials are registered in a WHO-approved public trials registry at or before the time of first patient enrolment 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.

2.8 Reporting guidelines

The relevant [EQUATOR Network](#) reporting guidelines should be followed depending on the type of study. For example, all randomized controlled trials submitted for publication should include a completed [CONSORT flow chart](#) as a cited figure and the completed [CONSORT checklist](#) should be uploaded with your submission as a supplementary file. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses should include the completed [PRISMA](#) flow chart as a cited figure and the completed PRISMA checklist should be uploaded with your submission as a supplementary file. The [EQUATOR wizard](#) can help you identify the appropriate guideline.

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

2.9 Data

Sage acknowledges the importance of research data availability as an integral part of the research and verification process for academic journal articles.

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health requests all authors submitting any primary data used in their research articles alongside their article submissions to be published in the online version of the journal, or provide detailed information in their articles on how the data can be obtained. This information should include links to third-party data repositories or detailed contact information for third-party data sources. Data available only on an author-maintained website will need to be loaded onto either the journal's platform or a third-party platform to ensure continuing accessibility. Examples of data types include but are not limited to statistical data files, replication code, text files, audio files, images, videos, appendices, and additional charts and graphs necessary to understand the original research. The editor may consider limited embargoes on proprietary data. The editor can also grant exceptions for data that cannot legally or ethically be released. All data submitted should comply with Institutional or Ethical Review Board requirements and applicable government regulations. For further information, please contact the editor at terje.eikemo@ntnu.no

[Back to top](#)

3. Publishing Policies

3.1 Publication ethics

Sage is committed to upholding the integrity of the academic record. We encourage authors to refer to the Committee on Publication Ethics' [International Standards for Authors](#) and view the Publication Ethics page on the [Sage Author Gateway](#).

3.1.1 Plagiarism

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health 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 articles. Equally, we seek to protect the reputation of the journal against malpractice. Submitted articles may be checked with duplication-checking software. Where an article, for example, is found to have plagiarised other work or included third-party copyright material without permission or with insufficient acknowledgement, or where the authorship of the article is contested, we reserve the right to take action including, but not limited to: publishing an erratum or corrigendum (correction); retracting the article; taking up the matter with the head of department or dean of the author's institution and/or relevant academic bodies or societies; or taking appropriate legal action.

3.1.2 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 at the address given below.

3.2 Contributor's publishing agreement

Before publication, Sage requires the author as the rights holder to sign a Journal Contributor's Publishing Agreement. Sage's Journal Contributor's Publishing Agreement is an exclusive licence agreement which means that the author retains copyright in the work but grants Sage the sole and exclusive right and licence to publish for the full legal term of copyright. Exceptions may exist where an assignment of copyright is required or preferred by a proprietor other than Sage. In this case copyright in the work will be assigned from the author to the society. For more information please visit the [Sage Author Gateway](#).

3.3 Open access and author archiving

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health offers optional open access publishing via the Sage Choice programme and Open Access agreements, where authors can publish open access either discounted or free of charge depending on the agreement with Sage. Find out if your institution is participating by [visiting Open Access Agreements at Sage](#). For more information on Open Access publishing options at Sage please [visit Sage Open Access](#). For information on funding body compliance, and depositing your article in repositories, please [visit Sage's Author Archiving and Re-Use Guidelines](#) and [Publishing Policies](#).

[Back to top](#)

4. Preparing your manuscript for submission

4.1 Formatting

The preferred format for your manuscript is Word. LaTeX files are also accepted. Word and (La)Tex templates are available on the [Manuscript Submission Guidelines](#) page of our Author Gateway.

4.2 Artwork, figures and other graphics

For guidance on the preparation of illustrations, pictures and graphs in electronic format, please visit Sage's [Manuscript Submission Guidelines](#).

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, you will receive information regarding the costs from Sage after receipt of your accepted article.

4.3 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. For more information please refer to our [guidelines on submitting supplementary files](#).

4.4 Reference style

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health adheres to the Sage Vancouver reference style. View the [Sage Vancouver](#) guidelines to ensure your manuscript conforms to this reference style.

If you use [EndNote](#) to manage references, you can download the [Sage Vancouver EndNote output file](#).

4.5 English language editing services

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.

4.6 Layout

Type the manuscript with double-spacing, allowing margins of at least 2.5 cm. Page 1 should bear: a brief but informative title; first name, middle initial, and surname of each author; institution(s) to which the author(s) is/are affiliated; name and address of author responsible for correspondence, and of author to whom requests for offprints should be sent.

Abstract. Page 2 should carry an abstract of no more than 250 words structured according to Aims, Methods, Results and Conclusions. List up to ten key words below the abstract, using terms from the Medical Subject headings list from Index Medicus whenever possible. Provide a word count for the whole manuscript, excluding the abstract, references, figures and tables.

Text. Organise the main text under such suitable headings as Background, Aims, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, Acknowledgements and References, with figure captions and tables separate. Begin each of the following sections on a new page: title page, abstract, main text, acknowledgements, references, individual tables and list of figure captions. Appendices and footnotes in the text are not allowed.

4.7 Accessibility Guidelines

Authors should familiarize themselves with [Sage's Accessibility Guidelines](#) to ensure their manuscripts meet recognized accessibility standards.

[Back to top](#)

5. Submitting your manuscript

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health is hosted on Sage Track, a web based online submission and peer review system powered by ScholarOne™ Manuscripts. Visit <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/spub> to login and submit your article online.

IMPORTANT: 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 will have had an account created. For further guidance on submitting your manuscript online please visit ScholarOne [OnOnline Help](#).

5.1 ORCID

As part of our commitment to ensuring an ethical, transparent and fair peer review process Sage is a supporting member of [ORCID, the Open Researcher and Contributor ID](#). ORCID provides a unique and persistent digital identifier that distinguishes researchers from every other researcher, even those who share the same name, and, through integration in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission, supports automated linkages between researchers and their professional activities, ensuring that their work is recognized.

The collection of ORCID iDs from corresponding authors is now part of the submission process of this journal. If you already have an ORCID iD you will be asked to associate that to your submission during the online submission process. We also strongly encourage all co-authors to link their ORCID ID to their accounts in our online peer review platforms. It takes seconds to do: click the link when prompted, sign into your ORCID account and our systems are automatically updated. Your ORCID iD will become part of your accepted publication's metadata, making your work attributable to you and only you. Your ORCID iD is published with your article so that fellow researchers reading your work can link to your ORCID profile and from there link to your other publications.

If you do not already have an ORCID iD please follow this [link](#) to create one or visit our [ORCID homepage](#) to learn more.

5.2 Information required for completing your submission

You will be asked to provide contact details and academic affiliations for all co-authors via the submission system and identify who is to be the corresponding author. These details must match what appears on your manuscript. At this stage please ensure you have included all the required statements and declarations and uploaded any additional supplementary files (including reporting guidelines where relevant).

5.3 Permissions

Please also ensure that you have obtained any necessary permission from copyright holders for reproducing any illustrations, tables, figures or lengthy quotations previously published elsewhere. For further information including guidance on fair dealing for criticism and review, please see the Copyright and Permissions page on the [Sage Author Gateway](#).

[Back to top](#)

6. On acceptance and publication

5.1 Sage Production

Your Sage Production Editor will keep you informed as to your article's progress throughout the production process. Proofs will be sent by PDF to the corresponding author and should be returned promptly. Authors are reminded to check their proofs carefully to confirm that all author information, including names, affiliations, sequence and contact details are correct, and that Funding and Conflict of Interest statements, if any, are accurate.

6.2 Online First publication

Online First allows final articles (completed and approved articles awaiting assignment to a future issue) to be published online prior to their inclusion in a journal issue, which significantly reduces the lead time between submission and publication. Visit the [Sage Journals help page](#) for more details, including how to cite Online First articles.

6.3 Access to your published article

Sage provides authors with online access to their final article.

6.4 Promoting your article

Publication is not the end of the process! You can help disseminate your paper and ensure it is as widely read and cited as possible. The Sage Author Gateway has numerous resources to help you promote your work. Visit the [Promote Your Article](#) page on the Gateway for tips and advice.

[Back to top](#)

7. Further information

Any correspondence, queries or additional requests for information on the manuscript submission process should be sent to the *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health* editorial office as follows:

EIC: Terje Andreas Eikemo terje.eikemo@ntnu.no

Browse journal

Current issue

OnlineFirst

All issues

Free sample

Journal information

Journal overview and metrics

Editorial board

Submission guidelines

Reprints

Journal permissions

Subscribe

Recommend to library

Advertising and promotion

Keep up to date



Facebook



X



LinkedIn



YouTube



RSS feed



Email alerts

[View all options](#)

Also from Sage

CQ Library

Elevating debate

Sage Data

Uncovering insight



Sage Business Cases

Sage Campus

Shaping futures

Unleashing potential

Sage Knowledge

Multimedia learning resources

Sage Research Methods

Supercharging research

Sage Video

Streaming knowledge

Technology from Sage

Library digital services

