

## Western Journal of Nursing Research

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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 (quantitative, intervention, qualitative, mixed methods)
- Pilot studies testing interventions
- Reviews of empirical studies (scoping reviews, integrative reviews, and systematic reviews with or without meta-analyses)
  - Review papers should address health problems or nursing practice issues with high significance for many patients or nurses. Reviews should synthesize previous findings as well as suggest future research and practice.
  - Review articles should be organized in a manner consistent with the content area and have appropriate headings and subheadings. The extent of previous research determines the number of references and tables.
  - Authors are encouraged to use relevant reporting guidelines for reviews to guide the structure and elements included in their review manuscript (e.g., PRISMA, PRISMA-ScR, etc.)
- Methodological research
- Editorials (we do not typically publish unsolicited editorials. Please contact the Editor prior to submitting an editorial)
- Special topics papers (Please contact the editor before submitting a special topic paper)
- Letters to the editor

### 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](#).

### Research Data

The journal is committed to facilitating openness, transparency and reproducibility of research, and has the following research data sharing policy. For more information, including FAQs please visit the [SAGE Research Data policy pages](#).

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

- share your research data in a relevant public data repository
- include a data availability statement linking to your data. If it is not possible to share your data, we encourage you to consider using the statement to explain why it cannot be shared.
- cite this data in your research

## **Person-first Language and Reporting of Race, Ethnicity, Sex, Gender, and Sexual Orientation**

WJNR asks authors to use person-first language wherever possible to avoid defining people by their health conditions or survivors by their experiences. Similarly, authors should follow the established [guidance for reporting race and ethnicity](#) as well as sex, gender, and sexual orientation (see section 11.12 in the AMA Manual of Style, 11th edition).

### **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](#).

Your article title, keywords, and abstract all contribute to its position in search engine results, directly affecting the number of people who see your work. For details of what you can do to influence this, visit [How to help readers find your article online](#).

#### 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

Include a structured abstract without citations as the first page of the manuscript file in addition to filling in the required abstract text box on the online system. Abstracts should focus on methods and results, with much less space devoted to background and discussion.

- Limit the abstract to 250 words.
- For most research articles, abstracts will use the following headings:
  - Background
  - Objective
  - Methods
  - Results
  - Conclusions
- Do not use abbreviations in abstracts.
- Any trial or review registration information (e.g. clinicaltrials.gov registration number, PROSPERO registration number, etc.) should be reported at the end of the abstract.
- Include four to five keywords below your abstract for indexing. Use MeSH terms if possible.

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

#### Keywords

Please include a minimum of 4-5 keywords, listed after the abstract. Keywords should be as specific as possible to the research topic. Use MeSH terms if possible.

#### 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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- A descriptive manuscript title, preferably of no more than 12 words
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- Author names, credentials, titles, and affiliations
  - The listed affiliation should be the institution where the research was conducted. If an author has moved to a new institution since completing the research, the new affiliation can be included in a note at the end of the manuscript – please indicate this on the title page.
  - All persons eligible for authorship must be included at the time of submission (please see the authorship section for more information).
- Corresponding author's name, complete address (including postal code), email address, and phone number
- Number of words in the text and number of tables and figures
- Required statements:
  - Ethical Approval: required for all submissions.
    - The statement should state that the study was reviewed and approved (or deemed exempt, if applicable) by the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board. Authors must provide the full name and institution of the review committee, in addition to the approval number.
    - Where exemption from ethics approval has been granted by an appropriate body, this should be specified and the reason for exemption should be provided.
    - When applicable, manuscripts should include statements that provide a clear explanation as to why ethics approval and/or informed consent was not sought for a given study. Statements such as “Ethics approval was not required for this study” or “Not applicable” do not provide a sufficient amount of detail.
    - See examples of Ethical considerations statements on the Sage [Publication ethics and research integrity policies page](#).
  - Informed Consent
    - The statement should include whether informed consent was written or verbal, and if the latter why that was the case (plus how the consent was recorded).
    - If a waiver of consent was granted, authors should specify who waived the need for informed consent and state the reason.
  - Declaration of Conflicting Interests
    - The journal requires a declaration of conflicting interests from all authors so that a statement can be included in your article. For guidance on conflict of interest statements, see our policy on conflicting interest declarations and the [ICMJE recommendations](#).
    - If no conflict exists, your statement should read: ‘The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article’.
  - Funding Statement
    - 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 Acknowledgements](#) page.

- Optional Statements: acknowledgements, author contribution statements, data availability statements, etc.
  - Per [ICMJE recommendations](#), it is best practice to obtain consent from non-author contributors who you are acknowledging in your manuscript.
  - **Writing assistance and third party submissions:** if you have received any writing or editing assistance from a third-party, for example a specialist communications company, this must be clearly stated in the Acknowledgements section and in the covering letter. Please see the [Sage Author Gateway](#) for what information to include in your Acknowledgements section. If your submission is being made on your behalf by someone who is not listed as an author, for example the third-party who provided writing/editing assistance, you must state this in the Acknowledgements and also in your covering letter. **Please note that the journal editor reserves the right to not consider submissions made by a third party rather than by the author/s themselves.**
- Include a brief summary (i.e., 140-280 characters) of the key takeaway of your manuscript so that if your manuscript is accepted we can promote it on social media when it is published. Please also list any author or institutional social media accounts or hashtags you would like linked in WJNR's social media postings to help with disseminating your work.

### ***Main Manuscript file***

- Format:
  - Number all pages, beginning with abstract page and including references, tables, and figures.
  - Research reports may be 4500 words (title page, abstract, references, tables, and figures do not count towards total).
  - Use one-inch margins and 12-point typeface.
  - Manuscripts should be double-spaced, including references.
  - Do not include line numbers. Line numbers will be added by the submission system when your manuscript is prepared to send to reviewers.
  - Do not use bold in the manuscript for text other than headings/subheadings. Use of italics should be consistent with AMA style.
  - Use three or fewer abbreviations in the manuscript text (other than common statistical abbreviations). Additional abbreviations may be necessary in some complex tables.
  - Citations and references should be consistent with AMA Manual of Style, 11th edition.
- Abstract
  - Include a structured abstract without citations as the first page of the manuscript file in addition to filling in the required abstract text box on the online system.
  - Abstracts should focus on methods and results, with much less space devoted to background and discussion.
  - Limit the abstract to 250 words.
  - For most research articles, abstracts will use the following headings:

- Background
  - Objective
  - Methods
  - Results
  - Conclusions
- Avoid or limit use of abbreviations in abstracts.
- Any trial or review registration information (e.g. clinicaltrials.gov registration number, PROSPERO registration number, etc.) must be reported at the end of the abstract.
- Keywords
  - Include a minimum of 4-5 keywords, listed after the abstract. Keywords should be as specific as possible to the research topic. Use MeSH terms whenever possible.
- Manuscript text
  - The body of the manuscript should start on a new page (separate from the abstract and keywords).
  - The first line of paragraphs should be indented.
- The organization for research reports is as follows:
  - **Introduction:** Do not use a heading. Keep the introduction and background brief and focused.
  - **Statement of the Problem:** Use a substantive, descriptive heading which describes the topic; do not use “Literature Review” or “Statement of the Problem” as the heading. Include rationale for the study, any conceptual framework, and literature review.
  - **Purpose:** Most manuscripts would benefit from this heading. State specific research questions or hypotheses which name all variables in the study.
  - **Methods:** Specify design, participants/sampling, data collection/measures, interventions, procedures, and/or analysis plans as relevant.
    - Please use the relevant reporting guidelines for your research method. Major reporting guidelines may be found on the [EQUATOR network webpage](#).
      - Use [PRISMA](#) or a PRISMA extension (e.g., PRISMA-ScR) for literature reviews
      - Please use the [CONSORT](#) guidelines when reporting intervention manuscripts. Provide extensive details regarding any interventions (see Conn, WJNR 34, 427-433 for intervention details to report), and use the [GUIDED](#) statement and/or [TIDieR](#) checklist, as appropriate.
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  - All papers reporting human and/or animal studies must state in the methods section that the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board provided (or waived) approval.
  - 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.
- **Results:** Describe sample attributes, then present results by research questions or hypotheses. When statistical tests are performed, provide test statistics and confidence intervals and/or exact p values. Report means and measures of variability for important variables. Report numbers of subjects included in analyses if this varies.
    - When reporting results, please avoid reporting only that something was statistically significant, and just the p-value. Current reporting standards are that any time a p-value is reported, there should also be something to show the magnitude of the difference (e.g., an effect size, the means being compared, the statistical test value [t-test, F-test, etc.]).
  - **Discussion:** Use minimal subheadings in this section. The section should include findings interpreted in the context of other research, conceptual frameworks, or design. Do not simply re-state results.
    - The Discussion section should include a discussion of the limitations of your research or review.
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  - Tables must have labels which indicate the kind of data and units of measure in that column or row (e.g., means(SD), n(%), r(p)).
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All papers reporting studies involving human participants, human data or human tissue must state that the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board approved the study, or waived the requirement for approval, providing the full name and institution of the review committee in addition to the approval number. If applicable, please also include this information in the Methods section of your manuscript.

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Please include any participant consent information under this heading and state whether informed consent to participate was written or verbal. If the requirement for informed consent to participate has been waived by the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board (i.e. where it has been deemed that consent would be impossible or impracticable to obtain), please state this. If this is not applicable to your manuscript, please state 'Not applicable' in this section. More information and example statements can be found on our [Publication ethics and research integrity policies page](#).

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- Cite this data in your research

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The journal follows the AMA Manual of Style. [View the AMA Manual of Style](#) to ensure your manuscript conforms.

Every in-text citation must have a corresponding citation in the reference list and vice versa. Corresponding citations must have identical spelling and year.

Authors should update any references to preprints when a peer reviewed version is made available, to cite the published research. Citations to preprints are otherwise discouraged.

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- Title page must include:
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  - Author names, credentials, titles, and affiliations
  - Corresponding author's name and complete address including email and phone number
  - Statements: any acknowledgements, funding statements, conflict of interest statements, etc.
  - Include a 140-character or less summary of the key takeaway of your manuscript so that if your manuscript is accepted we can promote it on social media when it is published. Please also list any author or institutional social media accounts or hashtags you would like included in WJNR's social media postings to help with disseminating your work.
- The title page must be uploaded as a separate file to enable blinded manuscript review.
- Number all pages, beginning with abstract page and including references, tables, and figures. Research reports may be 4500 words (title page, abstract, references, tables, and figures do not count towards total).
- Do not use bold or italics in the manuscript for text other than headings and subheadings. Use of italics should be consistent with AMA Manual of Style, 11th edition.
- Use one-inch margins and 12-point typeface.
- Double space the entire document including tables and references. Do not include line numbers.
- Use three or fewer abbreviations in the manuscript text (other than common statistical abbreviations). Additional abbreviations may be necessary in some complex tables.
- Prepare a blinded manuscript file that does not contain any author information. Do not include a title page in this file. When blinding your own and co-authors' references, replace the citations and author list with "Authors," but retain the rest of the reference entry for reviewers.

**Abstract:** Include a structured abstract without citations as the first page of the manuscript file in addition to filling in the required abstract text box on the online system.

- Abstracts should focus on methods and results, with much less space devoted to background and discussion.
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**Manuscript:** The body of the manuscript should start on a new page (separate from the abstract and keywords).

- Manuscripts should be limited to 4500 words (not including the title page, abstract, references, tables, and figures), and prepared following the AMA Manual of Style.
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- The first line of paragraphs should be indented.
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  - **Statement of the Problem:** Use a substantive, descriptive heading which describes the topic; do not use “Literature Review” or “Statement of the Problem” as the heading. Include rationale for the study, any conceptual framework, and literature review.
  - **Purpose:** Most manuscripts would benefit from this heading. State specific research questions or hypotheses which name all variables in the study.
  - **Methods:** Specify design, participants/sampling, data collection/measures, interventions, procedures, and/or analysis plans as relevant.
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      - Use [PRISMA](#) or a PRISMA extension (e.g., PRISMA-ScR) for literature reviews
      - Please use the [CONSORT](#) guidelines when reporting intervention manuscripts. Provide extensive details regarding any interventions (see Conn, WJNR 34, 427-433 for intervention details to report), and use the [GUIDED](#) statement and/or [TIDieR](#) checklist, as appropriate.
      - For qualitative manuscripts, please review the [COREQ](#) and [SRQR](#) guidelines for standards for reporting qualitative research to ensure your manuscript contains all recommended elements to meet reporting quality.
      - The [STROBE](#) guidelines should be followed for standards for reporting quantitative descriptive research.
    - 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.
  - **Results:** Describe sample attributes, then present results by research questions or hypotheses. When statistical tests are performed, provide test statistics and confidence intervals and/or exact p values. Report means and measures of variability for important variables. Report numbers of subjects included in analyses if this varies.

- When reporting results, please avoid reporting only that something was statistically significant, and just the p-value. Current reporting standards are that any time a p-value is reported, there should also be something to show the magnitude of the difference (e.g., an effect size, the means being compared, the statistical test value [t-test, F-test, etc.]).
- **Discussion:** The last heading. Use minimal subheadings in this section. The section should include findings interpreted in the context of other research, conceptual frameworks, or design. Do not simply re-state results. The discussion section should include a discussion of the limitations of your research or review.
- **References:** Start the reference list on a new page. Use the most recent AMA Manual of Style for citations and reference lists. References for research reports are generally limited to 30 citations; reviews may include more citations.
  - DOI numbers should be included for all references where a DOI number is available.
  - Authors should verify that no retracted literature has been included as part of the evidence base in the manuscript.
- Include any **acknowledgement and funding statements** on the title page file, not the manuscript file. Do not state authors' names in acknowledgements. Limit to major contributions, following the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ([icmje.org](http://icmje.org)). Be brief.

Tables and Figures are encouraged when they convey information not presented in the text. Tables and figures should display unique information; do not report the same information in figures and tables. Figures are optional, must be camera-ready, and black and white; WJNR does not publish color figures. No more than one figure per page. Each table or figure should start on a new page. Group tables and figures at the end of the manuscript file or in a separate file. Avoid tables longer than one page. Research reports should contain no more than 3 tables or figures total, but exceptions are possible. Review articles may contain additional tables.

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- Do not create small tables with few rows and columns, these data may be better presented in the text.
- Tables should always contain information about the number of subjects in the analyses. If all subjects are included in all cells, this may be designated parenthetically at the end of the title such as (N = 451) otherwise designate sample sizes in column/row headings or in a footnote.
- In tables and text, upper case 'N' designates the entire sample. Lower case 'n' denotes a subsample.
- Report exact p values (instead of p less than values) whenever possible in tables and text.
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