

Writing and publishing your Research: practical tips

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Benefits of a Read & Publish Agreement

Access to a rich journals portfolio

1. Authors can choose among **36 hybrid titles** and **34 Gold OA titles** including **The BMJ and BMJ Open**
2. We aim to publish 60 new journals by 2028
3. We offer a cascading journals structure to provide more publication opportunities



Simplification of submission process

1. Authors no longer need to pay individual APCs
2. Our current agreement allows unlimited publishing for all Anelis Plus members
3. Submission process is simplified via Ringgold ID, while OA managers can easily approve articles using the CCC portal



Higher visibility and research impact

1. Open-access publications garner more readership across the globe and can result in higher citations
2. Open-access articles are more likely to have an impact and influence beyond academic including mentions in healthcare policy and clinical guidelines



About me



Deputy Editor of BMJ Open

Previously Editor for the Royal College of Physicians
and for the BMC Series

Competing interests: I am employed by BMJ Group as a Research Editor on BMJ Open, a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Medical Association (BMA). Part of the revenue for BMJ (the company) comes from drug & device manufacturers through advertising, reprint sales, & sponsorship. The BMJ and BMJ Open are open access journals that charge author fees for publication of research.

Agenda

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IMRaD

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Core resources

ICMJE and EQUATOR

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) recommendations for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals
<http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/manuscript-preparation/preparing-for-submission.html>

Reporting guidelines for research, at the EQUATOR network: <http://www.equator-network.org/>

Core resources

ICMJE

The ICMJE is a small working group of general medical journal editors whose participants meet annually and fund their own work on the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals.

Current members include Annals of Internal Medicine, BMJ, Bulletin of the World Health Organization, JAMA, New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet etc.

1. General Principles

2. Reporting Guidelines

3. Manuscript Sections

- a. Title Page
- b. Abstract
- c. Introduction
- d. Methods
- e. Results
- f. Discussion
- g. References
- h. Tables
- i. Illustrations (Figures)
- j. Units of Measurement
- k. Abbreviations and Symbols

Core resources

Useful reporting guidelines

Reporting guidelines

The guidelines listed below should be followed where appropriate. Please use these guidelines to structure your article. Completed applicable checklists, structured abstracts and flow diagrams should be uploaded with your submission; these will be published alongside the final version of your paper.

CONSORT Statement

For reporting of randomised controlled trials: please use the appropriate extension to the CONSORT statement, including the extension for writing abstracts

SRQR

For reporting qualitative research

COREQ

For reporting qualitative research

STARD

For reporting of diagnostic accuracy studies

STROBE

For reporting of observational studies in epidemiology
[Checklist for cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional studies \(combined\)](#)
[Checklist for cohort studies](#)
[Checklist for case-control studies](#)
[Checklist for cross-sectional studies](#)

PRISMA

For reporting of systematic reviews

PRISMA-P

For reporting of systematic review and meta-analysis protocols

Core resources

Example checklist

COREQ (CONsolidated criteria for REporting Qualitative research) Checklist

A checklist of items that should be included in reports of qualitative research. You must report the page number in your manuscript where you consider each of the items listed in this checklist. If you have not included this information, either revise your manuscript accordingly before submitting or note N/A.

Topic	Item No.	Guide Questions/Description	Reported on Page No.
Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity			
<i>Personal characteristics</i>			
Interviewer/facilitator	1	Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group?	
Credentials	2	What were the researcher's credentials? E.g. PhD, MD	
Occupation	3	What was their occupation at the time of the study?	
Gender	4	Was the researcher male or female?	
Experience and training	5	What experience or training did the researcher have?	
<i>Relationship with participants</i>			
Relationship established	6	Was a relationship established prior to study commencement?	
Participant knowledge of the interviewer	7	What did the participants know about the researcher? e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research	

Core resources

Penelope.ai

Integrated with BMJ Open to help authors submit their paper - checks manuscripts for completeness and gives immediate feedback

https://app.penelope.ai/manuscript-check/bmj_open

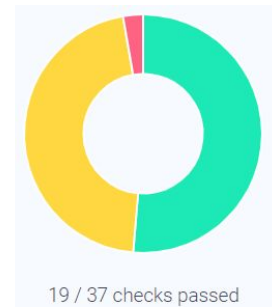
Before you submit...

Use our automated tool to see if your manuscript meets our submission requirements.

It's free, fast, and may help spot mistakes which could otherwise delay your submission.

CHECK MANUSCRIPT

SUBMIT NOW



The author should include a reporting checklist

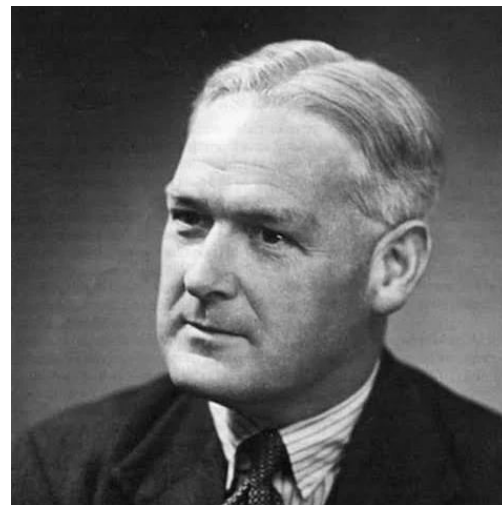
!

There are 17 things you should double-check

17

IMRaD structure for manuscripts

- Introduction: why ask this research question?
- Methods: what did I do?
- Results: what did I find?
- Discussion: what might it mean?




Austin Bradford Hill

Introduction

- Brief background for this audience
- 3-4 paragraphs only: mind the word limit
- What's known / not known on research question
- Rationale for carrying out this study
- Be concise

The research question: state it clearly in last paragraph of introduction

The research question

'That gave me a lot of comfort, that he would ask my opinion about how we wanted to talk about this': A qualitative analysis of clinical communication experiences of ostomy patients 

 Braidyn S Lazenby ¹,  Ashley Guidry ¹, Erin E Donovan ¹, René Dailey ¹, Srinivas Joga Ivatury ²

RQ: What communication challenges and successes do ostomy patients experience with clinicians?

Methods

The methods is the most important section for informed readers

- Follow reporting guidelines, e.g., CONSORT/COREQ
- Describe measures to ensure ethical conduct



Ethics essentials

- Approval: provide the full name of the Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Informed consent: how it was obtained (written vs verbal) and from whom
- Anonymity: explicitly state the measures taken to protect patient privacy

Results



- Report results fully and honestly, as pre-specified
- Text (story), Tables (evidence), Figures (highlights)
- Report primary outcomes first
- Report any essential summary statistics
- Leave out non-essential tables and figures; these can be included as supplementary files
- Avoid interpretation: save the "why" and "how" for the Discussion

Discussion

Don't simply repeat the introduction. Include the following:


- Statement of principal findings
- Strengths and limitations of the study and in relation to other key studies
- Possible mechanisms and explanations for findings
- Potential implications for clinicians or policymakers
- Unanswered questions and future research

Abstracts

- Often the only part of the study that will be read
- All authors must approve it
- Abstract = decision point - editors may screen papers based on the abstract alone

Protocols

Why publish them?

- Keep researchers and funding bodies up-to-date
 - Enable collaboration
 - Prevent unnecessary duplication of work
 - Increase transparency
 - Give others the opportunity to see and understand deviations that occur during the study
-  The intention of peer review is not to alter the study design, but to judge whether the study design is sound and to improve reporting/transparency

Tips for publication

What editors are looking for

- **A meaningful contribution**
 - Why should the reader care?
- **Strong journal fit**
 - Scope and article type
- **Alignment**
 - Research question, methods, and findings all need to line up



Why good papers get rejected

Rejections are often predictable - and preventable

- ✗ Wrong journal
- ✗ Weak methodology
- ✗ An unclear message
- ✗ Incomplete reporting
- ✗ Poor reviewer response

Tips for publication

Guidance for early career researchers



Do

Start with a clear research question (e.g. PICO framework)

Get input early

Choose journals strategically (audience, scope / article type, novelty, time)

Treat peer review as part of the process



Don't

Overstate your findings

Overload one paper

Neglect ethics

Thank you

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