Pain Management Nursing Journal: New Areas of Emphasis
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Purposes
1. Describe two new journal manuscript formats, Clinical Consultation and Quality Improvement.
2. Review essential elements in the preparation of a publishable manuscript.
3. Review 10 major reasons manuscripts are rejected.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure
Elaine Miller, No conflict of interest
Two New Manuscript Formats

Provide additional opportunities to share nursing best practices and system changes to improve pain care

Clinical Consultation

• Designed to address recurring clinical to situation questions that healthcare professionals find problematic.

• Provides practical evidence-based information to manage the persistent clinical practice dilemma.

Clinical Consultation Format

Clinical situation
Presented as a question followed by a description of an exemplary case
Question examples:

• What are the primary factors affecting pain management of an older adult following a total hip replacement?

• What are best practices to manage acute pain in patients with a substance abuse disorder?

Clinical Consultation

• Description of the current evidence and how it can be specifically applied to nursing practice
• References to support your rationale for action
• Tables and figures may be used, but not necessary
• Length approximately 1500-2000 words and double spaced

Quality Improvement Articles

Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence (SQUIRE)

The SQUIRE guidelines are intended for reports that describe system level work to improve the quality, safety, and value of healthcare

Authors should consider every SQUIRE item, but no all aspects are necessary to include every SQUIRE element in a particular manuscript.
Headings of Quality Improvement Manuscript

Title

Abstract
- Background, problem, methods, interventions, results, conclusions

Introduction
- Problem description
- Available knowledge – research, etc.
- Rationale – frameworks, etc. to frame the problem and explain the basis for the interventions
- Specific Aims – Purpose of the project and the reason for this article

Methods
- Context – elements considered at the onset of introducing the introduction
- Intervention(s) – describe in sufficient detail so can replicate
- Measures – rationale for, operational definitions, reliability & validity info
- Analysis – quantitative and/or qualitative
- Ethical considerations - formal ethics review & potential conflict(s) of interest
Results
• Initial steps and evolution of the intervention (e.g., time-line diagram, table, etc.) including modifications
• Details of process measure and outcomes
• Contextual elements of intervention
• Observed associations between outcomes, interventions, and relevant contextual aspects
• Unintended consequences (e.g., benefits, problems, costs, etc.)
• How missing data handled

Discussion
• Summary – Key findings related to rationale and specific aims
• Interpretation – Compare results with findings and other publications
• Limitations – What affects generalizability?
  Factors affecting internal validity and efforts to minimize the limitations
• Conclusions – usefulness of project, sustainability, potential to disseminate to other contexts, implications to practice and suggested next steps

Funding
sources of funding that supported this project, did the funding organization affect design, implementation, interpretation and reporting of this project
Writing Phase

- Obtain and follow the PMN Author Guidelines (format, citations, keep track of all references, ask permission if use photographs, diagrams, etc.)
- Keep track of key points, suggest 2-3 hours of uninterrupted time
- Do not plagiarize of self or others.
- Use plain language, correct terminology, be very attentive to details.

Strategies to Keep You Writing

- Obtain the needed resources (i.e., time, equipment, library, etc.) to support your effort.
- Set realistic timelines, but revise as needed.
- Work in a comfortable environment that limits interruptions and distractions.

Strategies to Keep You Writing

- May want to write with a peer or mentor.
- Join or start a writing or reading club.
- Work smart – link writing with a presentation or other related activity.
Strategies to Keep You Writing

- Reduce manuscript to major sections.
- Don’t get stuck with literature review.
- Reward yourself for each minor progress.
- Identify your own personal cheerleaders who can encourage you “prn.”

Writing is a skill and takes time to develop.

- You have something important to say!
- Even if you receive a rejection letter (all of us receive them!), review comments and keep revising.

Successful writing involves revising even for experienced writers!
Prepare your manuscript, then submit it
(Remember that no manuscript is perfect)

Author and Editor Interactions

- Consider sending a query email. 
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- Editor knows “hot topics” wanted, manuscripts are in the review process, and accepted.
- Don’t be defensive about your work. Accept criticism well and edit accordingly.

Top 10 reasons why manuscripts are rejected

10. Plagiarism, copyright or other ethical issues
9. Sloppy, poorly organized, ideas don’t flow (requires too much editorial effort to make into publishable quality)
8. No references or very dated ones (most >5 years old) when many current ones exist
Top 10 reasons why manuscripts are rejected

7. Not responsive to editor’s recommendations regarding how to improve the manuscript
6. Broad generalizations with no support
5. Research/content not clearly described
4. Weak interpretation of findings or overstating the interpretation of data

Top 10 reasons why manuscripts are rejected

3. Poor research/project design – affects data quality
2. Nothing new is introduced
1. Irrelevant topic (low interest to journal)

Maintain Your Momentum!

- Include a letter with your revised manuscript that specifically describes how you responded to each point requiring refinement. Bold the changes made.
- Prompt action makes a great impression and can improve your chances of getting published.
- Do not be passive aggressive in response.
References
Once Found Never Let Them Go

- Compile references as you go along
  Saves lots of work!
- Photocopy title and copyright pages of references

Helpful Resources


http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/rolg_st_johns/

The “Write” Time

- Is anytime that you can find, anywhere.
- You are here today because you have the desire, ability, and motivation to make it happen

- Write!

You can become published if you put forth the effort and receive the mentorship/support.

Questions?