Guidelines for Authors

(updated March 2021)

Nursing for Women's Health (NWH) is the practice journal of AWHONN. The mission of *NWH* is to translate evidence into nursing practice to improve health outcomes for individuals, families, and populations. The target audience is nurses, advanced practice nurses, midwives, and interdisciplinary teams working in women's and gender-related health, childbearing care, and neonatal health. Manuscripts most likely to be accepted are those with a robust discussion of implications for clinical practice.

AIMS & SCOPE
Read about *NWH*'s aims and scope at https://nwhjournal.org/content/aims.

ONLINE SUBMISSION & PEER REVIEW
Manuscript submission and peer review occur online at Editorial Manager.

ETHICS IN PUBLISHING
Authors are expected to adhere to ethical standards for publishing as outlined in Elsevier's ethics policy. Suspicions of plagiarism or other ethical breaches will be handled in accordance with guidelines from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

ARTICLE TYPES
Clinical Evaluation & Improvement: Quantitative and qualitative original research with direct clinical implications for our target audience, and reports of quality improvement, program evaluation, and evidence-based practice projects. Include a structured abstract of no more than 300 words using the following headings: Objective, Design, Setting/Local Problem, Participants, Intervention/Measurements, Results, Conclusion. Reports of Quality Improvement (QI) projects must follow the Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence (SQUIRE) guidelines and outline.

Reviews: Literature reviews, systematic reviews, and integrative reviews with specific implications for clinical practice. For literature reviews, include an unstructured abstract of no more than 125 words that summarizes the main points. For systematic and integrative reviews, include a structured abstract of no more than 300 words using the following headings: Objective, Data Sources, Study Selection, Data Extraction, Data Synthesis, and Conclusion. Reports of systematic reviews must follow the Preferred Reporting Items of Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. For reviews with tables summarizing studies reviewed, see section on "Tables" below for more guidance.

Practice Articles and Invited Columns: Articles that are not original research or literature reviews but those that share new or updated guidance or knowledge that readers can apply to their daily practice in women's and gender-related health, childbearing care, and neonatal health. Include an unstructured abstract of no more than 125 words that summarizes the main points. If you were invited by a member of the editorial advisory board to submit a column, please indicate such in your cover letter.

Invited CNE Articles: Any of the above article types with the addition of CNE learning outcomes and a posttest. Only submit this article type if you have been invited by the editor to do so. If you have an idea for a CNE article, contact the editorial office at nwh@awhonn.org to check if the topic meets a learning need identified by our CNE Nurse Planner.

Case Reports: Presentation of new information through case reviews of nursing and inter-professional care. Authors must provide written consent from the participant when clinical descriptions make identification possible. Include an unstructured abstract of no more than 125 words that summarizes the main points. Case reports must follow the CAse REport (CARE) guidelines.

Commentary: Opinion or advocacy articles that use evidence from the literature to support a position. Include an unstructured abstract of no more than 125 words that summarizes the main points.

Letters to the Editor: Points of current interest or comments on an article published in the journal. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject, or excerpt letters. Letters should reference published articles no later than three months after publication.

Personal Essay ("Reflections"): Essays written from the first-person point of view that describe pivotal or transformational personal experiences that will resonate with our readership. Suggested word count of no more than 1,000 words. Essays typically do not include references.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION
Manuscripts must be original, not published previously, and not under consideration by another publication. The editor will consider publishing a complete report following the publication of preliminary findings (e.g., in an abstract) or presentations. Previous presentation of research findings should be disclosed in the cover letter.

Authorship. All persons designated as authors on manuscripts submitted to *NWH* should qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify for authorship should be listed. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content. Criteria for authorship are listed on the Copyright Transfer & Author Disclosure Form.

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IRB Approval. A copy of institutional review board (IRB) approval (or a letter from the IRB chair stating that approval for the study is not required) is required for any research published in *NWH*.

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PREPARING YOUR MANUSCRIPT

Double-space all pages, including the abstract, text, references, tables, and legends. Use 12-point font and uniform margins of 1" at the top, bottom, right, and left. Do not right justify lines. Do not divide words at the end of a line. Number pages consecutively. In the left margin, consecutively number each line of text. The average article in *NWH* is 15 to 18 manuscript pages, plus references, tables, and visuals.

Use clear, concise writing. Use headings and subheadings to organize the content. Remember that good articles always have a beginning, a middle, and an end. In the beginning (one to two introductory paragraphs), set the stage and tell the reader what the article is about. In the middle (body of the manuscript), provide the pertinent information. In the end (conclusion paragraph), briefly summarize the important takeaways.

Refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (*APA*), seventh edition, for grammar, punctuation, style, and for guidelines on statistical reporting.

Use person-centered language, such as *woman* or *individual* instead of *patient*, *birth* instead of *delivery*, and *person with diabetes* instead of *diabetic*. Use generic names of all drugs and products. Report physical measures in International System of Units (SI) units. For examples of conversion to SI equivalents, refer to the APA manual. When a term such as height is noted, both the metric and imperial systems should be included.

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MANUSCRIPT COMPONENTS

Title. Limit the title to no more than 20 words. Ensure that the title summarizes the main idea of the paper; is fully explanatory standing alone; and avoids the use of the words *method*, *results*, *a study*, and *an experimental investigation*. Colons in titles should be avoided.

Keywords. Submit 3 to 10 keywords with the abstract for use in indexing the article. See the MeSH on Demand tool provided by the U. S. National Library of Medicine for assistance.

Précis Statement. Provide a précis statement for use in the table of contents. This is a single sentence of no more than 25 words that is written in the present tense and states the conclusion(s) of the report. The précis should be similar to the abstract's conclusion.

Clinical Implications. Provide a bulleted list of three to five brief points that concisely summarize and encapsulate for readers the most important clinical takeaways. Every article published in NWH lists these bullets on the second page of the article; see previously published articles at nwhjournal.org for examples.

Implications for Practice. Before the article's Conclusion section, include a section on Implications for Practice. This is where readers learn how to replicate your work and/or apply the knowledge shared to their own practice. The more robust this section is, the better an article's chances of acceptance.

Conclusion. Each article should end with a brief conclusion paragraph that summarizes the main points of the article. No new information should be included in the conclusion.

Artwork and Figure Legends. Image-based (not text-based) figures and illustrations should not be embedded within the manuscript Word document; rather they should be uploaded along with the manuscript as separate native files in .JPG, .TIF, .EPS, or .PDF format. Image files must be high-resolution: at least 300 dpi. Image files should contain the image only. Provide all explanatory material, labels, and captions as text on a page following the Conclusion and label it "Figure Legends". For help with creating and formatting image files, refer to the artwork instructions provide by Elsevier.

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Tables. Do not include more than six tables. Submit only actual tabular material in table form. Simple lists should be incorporated into the text, and longer lists can be incorporated into a box. Number tables consecutively with Arabic numerals and cite in numeric order in the text. Place tables in body of the manuscript where they are first cited (unless you have a very long table, such as for a systematic review; in that case, please the table directly after the conclusion.

Tables of studies included in systematic reviews should use the following column headings: Author/Date, Participants, Methods, Interventions, Outcomes. Information included for each study should be presented in a standardized manner and be as succinct as possible.

For tables that are not original and have been previously published under copyright, see "Permissions" section.

References. Cite current primary sources only, preferably those published with the last 5 years (up to 10 years for seminal works. Use references prudently. Cite references in the text in the style outlined in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, seventh edition. The reference list also should be formatted in APA style and should include DOI numbers. Identify sources of quotations and all other borrowed materials.

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MANUSCRIPT CHECKLIST
Use this checklist as you prepare your manuscript:

___ The manuscript is blinded and contains no identifying information, not even in the manuscript file name.
___ First page includes title, abstract, keywords, and précis statement.
___ Clinical Implications bulleted list (page 2).
___ Text (begins on page 3).
___ Each line of text is numbered consecutively in the left margin beginning with the abstract.
___ Toward the end of the manuscript before the Conclusion include a section on Implications for Practice.
___ End the body of the manuscript with a brief Conclusion section that summarizes the main points of the article.
___ Boxes and Tables are embedded in manuscript at first mention.
___ Figure Legend and Figures follow the Conclusion (figures should be uploaded as separate, high-resolution image files, not embedded in the manuscript Word file).
___ References formatted according to APA style, including DOI numbers, come at the end of the manuscript.

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