

Journal of Physiotherapy – Types of Articles

The Editorial Board is committed to publishing excellent research and will consider the following types of papers:

- Systematic reviews

Systematic reviews are strongly preferred over narrative (non-systematic) reviews. High quality systematic reviews with firm conclusions are a publication priority. However, systematic reviews are unlikely to be published if they find there is not enough good quality evidence to review or if the literature is inconclusive. Note that this journal gives priority to systematic reviews that are prospectively registered in a publicly available register (e.g., PROSPERO at <http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO>). Authors should submit evidence of registration when submitting a manuscript for consideration. There are specific guidelines available for this type of study at the end of the Presentation section of these Author Guidelines.

- Clinical trials

All clinical trials submitted to JoP must have been registered in a publicly-accessible trials register. We will accept any register that satisfies the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors requirements (such as The Australian New Zealand Clinical Trial Registry at <http://www.anzctr.org.au>). Authors must provide the name and website address of the register and the trial registration number on submission. The journal will only accept trials that have been registered prospectively unless data collection began before 2006, in which case retrospective registration is acceptable. There are specific guidelines available for this type of study at the end of the Presentation section.

- Economic analyses

- Experimental studies

- Qualitative studies

Qualitative research refers to research where the analysis of data involves qualitative judgements. Commonly qualitative research explores aspects of the human, social world. Qualitative research methodologies include narrative inquiry, naturalistic inquiry, ethnography, hermeneutics, phenomenology, and survey research using open-ended questions. There are specific guidelines available for this type of study at the end of the Presentation section.

- Epidemiological studies

- Observational studies

- Narrative reviews

Narrative reviews critically appraise and summarise literature on a common topic area but do not set specific criteria for selecting literature to be included or a specific review protocol. A narrative review draws together major arguments in a field of discourse or provides a significant historical review of an important aspect of physiotherapy. Narrative reviews should be on topics that do not lend themselves to systematic reviews, e.g., examination of the mechanisms underlying a clinical phenomenon. Narrative reviews will almost always be invited and will be considered only if they are written by authors with extensive research experience in the field, usually reflected in multiple significant publications. Authors considering submission of a narrative review should first consult the Journal Editor regarding potential suitability of the review for publication. Narrative reviews of intervention, diagnosis, and prognosis will generally not be accepted.

The following types of studies are a low priority:

- Studies of the reliability or validity of clinical measurement procedures

- Surveys of physiotherapy students

- Surveys of physiotherapy practice

- Any survey with a low response rate (less than 70%)

Submission of these types of studies should be accompanied by a short (less than 100 words)

explanation of why the study would be of particular interest to readers of JoP. The Editorial Board will decide, on the basis of this explanation and the abstract, whether the manuscript should be considered for publication. If accepted, such studies will be published as papers of less than 2000 words with no more than one table or figure.

The following types of studies are not accepted:

- Clinical practice guidelines

Although the journal is particularly interested in presenting the recommendations of clinical practice guidelines to its readers, clinical practice guidelines are often developed by consensus and may be endorsed by a professional body. This can make it difficult to apply the Journal's normal process of peer review. Therefore, particularly relevant guidelines that have been developed using a rigorous process and endorsed by a high quality professional body, such as NHMRC, will be summarised in the Appraisal section of the journal, but will not be republished. Details of the location where hard or electronic copies of the full guidelines are available will be given in the summary.

- Pilot studies

Pilot clinical trials are those that are not designed to have adequate statistical power. Their purpose is to test the feasibility of an intervention in terms of recruitment and delivery of the intervention, as well as to examine the rate of dropouts. They usually provide information to power a future trial and do not therefore reach firm conclusions.

- Case studies

Case studies provide information about an individual patient. Although they may be of interest to some clinicians, especially when the clinical presentation is very rare, they do not provide robust implications for widespread clinical practice. This limitation makes them uncompetitive against other research published by the journal.

We don't accept papers where an animal model is used to understand disease or mechanisms of treatment of humans.