DESCRIPTION

The Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation publishes original, peer-reviewed research and clinical reports on important trends and developments in physical medicine and rehabilitation and related fields. This international journal brings researchers and clinicians authoritative information on the therapeutic utilization of physical, behavioral and pharmaceutical agents in providing comprehensive care for individuals with chronic illness and disabilities.

Archives began publication in 1920, publishes monthly, and is the official journal of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. Its papers are cited more often than any other rehabilitation journal.

Benefits to authors
We also provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, a liberal copyright policy, special discounts on Elsevier publications and much more. Please click here for more information on our author services.

Please see our Guide for Authors for information on article submission. If you require any further information or help, please visit our Support Center.

You are also welcome to submit to Archives? open access companion title, Archives of Rehabilitation Research and Clinical Translation.

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

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INTRODUCTION

Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation publishes original articles that report on important trends and developments in physical medicine and rehabilitation and in the wider interdisciplinary field of rehabilitation. Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation brings readers authoritative information on the therapeutic utilization of physical and pharmaceutical agents in providing comprehensive care for persons with disabilities and for chronically ill individuals. Archives began publication in 1920, publishes monthly, and is the official journal of the ACRM | American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. Its content is cited more often than any other rehabilitation journal.

A steadily increasing rate of submissions has forced the Archives to adopt a policy of restricting its manuscripts to topics that proved new information that may alter clinical practice or represent influential advances in the research. Archives will not review studies involving animal models, healthy normal samples, or small case reports, except in unusual circumstances. We may make exceptions when the clinical implications for populations of persons with chronic illness or disability are compelling. In addition, we will not review studies that report psychometric information of well-established instruments for language-specific applications.

Types of papers

Original Research: Present new and important basic and clinical information, extend existing studies, or provide a new approach to a traditional subject. Manuscripts should be limited to 3000 words of text (Introduction through Conclusions). Figures, tables, and references should be limited to the number needed to clarify, amplify, or document the text.

Brief Reports: Provide preliminary communications of new data, research methods, new ideas, and techniques. Manuscripts should be limited to 1500 words of text (or 1200 words plus 1-2 figures or tables, Introduction through Conclusions), and no more than 10 references. Brief reports should be accompanied by the appropriate reporting guideline and checklist.

The Archives will not consider case reports or animal studies for publication. Please do not submit them.

Commentaries (by Invitation): Focus on issues in physical medicine and rehabilitation. Manuscripts should be limited to 2000 words of text (Introduction through Conclusions). The Editorial Board reserves the right to ensure that the author is qualified, through education and professional experience, to write knowledgeably and appropriately about a particular subject before accepting a Commentary for publication. The Editorial Board will choose the author(s) for Invited Commentaries and the author(s)’ identity will be anonymous until publication. Authors of the subject article may submit a response for a subsequent issue.

When submitting an invited commentary please select Editorial as your manuscript type and note the word limit of 2,000 in your cover letter.

Editorials: Editorials published in Archives may only be written by the elected officers of ACRM, or by members of the Editorial Board. Prior to publication, all editorials are approved by the Editorial Board's Executive Committee. Editorials do not represent the opinions or positions of ACRM or the Editorial Board. Editorials should be limited to 1000 words of text.

Information/Education: The ACRM Communications Committee has developed a new feature, Information/Education Pages, which appear in the Organization News section of Archives. These fact sheets are printed as tear-out pages. They are designed to provide consumer-friendly information on topics relevant to rehabilitation medicine, including basic background or overview, similar to a Wikipedia entry, or brief how-to suggestions. They are targeted toward people with disabilities, their caregivers, or clinicians; and are designed so that a practitioner can tear out and copy, or download the pages, to make them available to patients and caregivers.

Authors are invited to submit Information/Education Page manuscripts or proposals to the Archives' Editorial Office (ArchivesMail@archives.acrm.org). The ACRM Communications Committee will assess subject matter, content, and target reading level then provide feedback on
suitability and instructions on how to proceed directly to the author. Note that this should not be considered an official peer review of the content. For more information go to http://www.acrm.org/publications/archives-of-pm-r/information-education-pages/.

**Letters to The Editor:** Letters are published at the discretion of the Editorial Board and will only be considered if they directly relate to a published article in the journal. Letters may not reference unpublished studies or reference “in press” studies that are not publicly available. The Editorial Board reserves the right to solicit a response from the authors of the cited article. Letters must be limited to roughly 500 words of text, 1 table, and no more than 5 references.

**Measurement Tools:** These instrument summaries, which appear in the Organization News section of *Archives*, are designed to facilitate the selection of outcome measures by trained clinicians. The information contained in this summary represents a sample of the peer-reviewed research available at the time of the summary’s publication. The information contained in these summaries does not constitute an endorsement of the instrument for clinical practice. The views expressed are those of the summary authors and do not represent those of authors' employers, instrument owner(s), the *Archives*, the Rehabilitation Measures Database or the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Authors are invited to submit proposals for new Measurement Tools to the *Archives*' editorial office (Archivesmail@archives.acrm.org) and the office will coordinate with the ACRM Measurement Networking Group for the Rehabilitation Measures Database to determine if the proposal is suitable for publication in the *Archives*. The Networking Group can assist authors with formatting their article to meet the Measurement Tools requirements.

**Review Articles (Meta-Analyses):** The Editorial Board welcomes state-of-the-art review articles. Manuscripts should be limited to 5000 words of text (Introduction through Conclusions), exclusive of references. The *Archives* strongly prefers systematic reviews of the literature.

**Special Communications:** Provide information or an objective analysis of issues in physical medicine and rehabilitation that does not qualify as a research or clinical paper or commentary. Manuscripts are peer reviewed and should be limited to 5000 words of text, exclusive of references.

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

**Ethics in Publishing**

**Preprint Policy**

The *Archives* will consider papers that are hosted on a preprint server. Authors should include the server name and a link to the preprint version of their manuscript in their cover letter. The *Archives of PM&R* reviews submissions on a double-blind basis; posting your work on a preprint server, or similarly posting your work in a registry such as ClinicalTrials.gov or Prospero, will disclose your identity to reviewers. Authors who have posted a manuscript on a preprint server should verify that the license required by the preprint platform is compatible with the *Archives*’ copyright policy, and vice versa.

**Authorship**

The order of authorship is a joint decision of the coauthors. *Archives* follows the *Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals* guidelines 1, which state authorship credit should be based only on substantial contributions to (1) conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, and (3) final approval of the version to be published. Conditions 1, 2, and 3 must all be met. Participation solely in the acquisition of data does not justify authorship, nor does general supervision of the research group. *Archives* may require authors to justify the assignment of authorship.

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Archives requires that all authors fill out the ICMJE form. For both new submissions and revisions, the peer-review process will not begin until these documents are completed correctly and submitted as per the instructions below.

**Step 1:** Archives requires the author submitting the manuscript to complete and upload an ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest. By this act, the author submitting the manuscript will serve as the guarantor for all coauthors in presenting accurate disclosures for the author group. The guarantor is expected to consult with all coauthors about the disclosures he/she provides. Any disclosure (i.e. actual or perceived conflict of interest) must be described on the title page of the manuscript.

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Please see the ICMJE author responsibilities regarding conflicts of interest ([http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/author-responsibilities--conflicts-of-interest.html](http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/author-responsibilities--conflicts-of-interest.html)). It is important to note that a conflict of interest can be actual or perceived.

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**Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses**

**Reporting guidance**
For research involving or pertaining to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells, investigators should integrate sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) into their research design according to funder/sponsor requirements and best practices within a field. Authors should address the sex and/or gender dimensions of their research in their article. In cases where they cannot, they should discuss this as a limitation to their research's generalizability. Importantly, authors should explicitly state what definitions of sex and/or gender they are applying to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of their research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer (see Definitions section below). Authors can refer to the Sex and Gender Equity in Research
(SAGER) guidelines and the SAGER guidelines checklist. These offer systematic approaches to the use and editorial review of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation - however, please note there is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender.

**Definitions**

Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth"), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society. Sex and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms "sex" and "gender" can be ambiguous—thus it is important for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the resources on this page offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.

**Authorship**

Authors have read the submitted manuscript and vouch for its accuracy. All authors have participated sufficiently in the conception and design of this work and the analysis of the data (where applicable), as well as the writing of the manuscript to take public responsibility for its content. If any author (or group of authors) listed cannot verify substantial contribution, the author's name should be moved to the acknowledgment section. If requested, authors shall produce the data on which the manuscript is based for examination by Archives or its assignees.

Authors warrant the manuscript is original and its essential substance, tables, or figures have not been previously published in part or in whole. The manuscript or one with substantially similar content under declared authorship or the data within it has not been accepted for publication elsewhere and it is not presently under review by any other publisher. The manuscript will not be submitted for publication elsewhere until a decision has been made on its acceptability for publication in Archives. This restriction does not apply to brief abstracts or press reports published in connection with scientific meetings.

**Clinical trial**

While there may be occasional exceptions, the Archives is committed to the need for clinical trial reports to be accompanied by adequate periods of follow-up. A lack of sufficient follow-up may be detrimental to a paper's acceptance.

As of January 1, 2017 the Archives will only consider clinical trials that have been registered before the first patient is enrolled.

For our purposes, a clinical trial is defined as "any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes" (http://www.who.int/ictrp/en). Thus, cohort and retrospective studies without an intervention do not require registration, and neither do observational studies of clinical care. However, studies of human subjects with prospective assignment of an intervention by the investigators, regardless of the size of the trial or method of assignment, must be registered.

**Systematic Review Registration**

Beginning January 2021 Archives encourages prospective registration of systematic reviews. The goal of systematic review registration is to avoid duplication of effort and reduce reporting bias by allowing comparison of the completed review with what authors planned in advance. Authors may register reviews through the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO) or the Open Science Framework (OSF) Center for Open Science. Please see the editors guidance on this subject here.
**Reporting Guidelines and Checklists**

To ensure a high and consistent quality of research reporting, original research articles, including brief reports, must contain sufficient information to allow readers to understand how a study was designed and conducted. For review articles, systematic or narrative, readers should be informed of the rationale and details behind the literature search strategy.

**To achieve this goal, Archives requires that authors upload a completed checklist for the appropriate reporting guideline during original submission.** Taking the time to ensure your manuscript addresses basic reporting prerequisites will greatly improve your manuscript, and enhance the likelihood of publication. These checklists serve as a guide for the editors and reviewers as they evaluate your paper.

The EQUATOR Network ([http://www.equator-network.org](http://www.equator-network.org)) is an excellent resource for key reporting guidelines, checklists, and flow diagrams. These guidelines should be especially useful for Archives' authors.

Click on the checklist that applies to your manuscript, download it to your computer, fill it out electronically, "save as," and upload it with your manuscript when you submit. Links to mandatory flow diagrams also are provided. Below are the most commonly used checklists but please note that the Equator Network provides many others (e.g. TRIPD, SRQR, etc.) and it is up to the authors to select the one most appropriate for their study.Randomized Controlled Trials — CONSORT — Consolidated Standards of Reporting TrialsObservational Studies — STROBE — Strengthening the Reporting of Observational studies in EpidemiologySystematic Review of Controlled Trials — PRISMA — Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-AnalysesStudy of Diagnostic accuracy/assessment scale — STARD — Standards for the Reporting of Diagnostic Accuracy StudiesFor psychometric studies the editors recommend either the COSMIN or GRRAS guideline, though the final choice is up to the author.

During the submission process when you are prompted to state which checklist is needed please check the appropriate box for your manuscript or check Not Applicable if your paper is a Commentary, Letter to the Editor, etc. Then the system will allow you to select the file type and upload the appropriate checklist and flow diagram. IT IS PERMISSIBLE TO ADD A COLUMN OR SPACE TO THE CHECKLIST THAT SPECIFIES WHERE IN THE MANUSCRIPT EACH COMPONENT HAS BEEN FOLLOWED AND USE THAT FOR YOUR UPLOAD. YOU MAY NEED TO DO THIS FOR STROBE AS WELL AS OTHERS. A MODIFIED STROBE FORM IS AVAILABLE HERE.

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Submission
Manuscripts must be submitted through the journal's online system at https://www.editorialmanager.com/ARCHIVES-PMR/default.aspx. The review process will not begin until authors have complied completely with the submission requirements. Compliance includes submission of separate documents in the following order: (1) cover letter; (2) title page, including acknowledgments and explanation of any conflicts of interest; (3) main text file (manuscript without author identifiers) including a structured or standard abstract, keywords, list of abbreviations, body of the text, suppliers’ list, references, figure legends; (4) figures; (5) tables; (6) appendices; (7) supplementary files; (8) checklist; and (9) ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest.

Referees
All submissions will be screened by editors to determine their suitability for further review. Manuscripts that are approved for review will be evaluated by at least one recognized expert in the particular subject matter. Biostatistical review may be obtained. Peer reviewers' assessments are referred to a member of the Editorial Board, who may also critique the manuscript. The assigned Editorial Board Member will then make a final decision and communicate with the corresponding author via e-mail. Decisions are typically communicated within 60 days after the manuscript has been approved for peer review. All reviews are conducted in a double-blind fashion.

Letters to the Editors and Editorials are generally evaluated by an editorial committee, however, external reviews may also be sought.

Published annually without peer review are the ACRM | American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine presidential address and the John Stanley Coulter Lecture. The Editorial Board does not peer review the published abstracts of posters, platform presentations of scientific papers, or audiovisual materials presented at the ACRM annual meeting. Archives also publishes the official documents of ACRM. These documents are not peer reviewed by Archives and include position papers and other materials approved by the ACRM.

Revisions
When submitting your revised manuscript, at the request of the Editorial Board, please include a document, separate from your cover letter, itemizing your response to each of the suggested revisions and any other changes you have made. Use consecutive line numbering in the text and cite line numbers for each change. In addition, highlight each change in the revised manuscript. You will upload this document in the file upload step as the "Detailed Response to Reviewers." Please note that this file should be blinded and should not include author names or institutional letterhead.

If revisions are not received within the time specified in the decision e-mail, the manuscript file will be closed. A revision received after a file has been closed will be handled as a new submission. An extension beyond the deadline may be granted at the Editorial Board’s discretion, but only in extenuating circumstances, given the editors’ commitment to prompt publication.

Submission of a revised manuscript includes submission of separate documents in the following order: (1) cover letter; (2) title page, including acknowledgments and explanation of any conflicts of interest; (3) main text file with highlighted changes, including an appropriate (structured or standard) abstract, keywords, list of abbreviations, body of the text, suppliers’ list, references, figure legends; (4) a clean copy of the main text file with no highlighted changes, including an appropriate abstract, keywords, list of abbreviations, body of the text, suppliers’ list, references, figure legends; (5) figures; (6) tables; (7) appendices; (8) supplementary files; (9) checklist; and (10) ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest for each author.
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From time to time an author may receive a decision of "Reject-Resubmit" on their original submission. This is a reject but grants the author the opportunity to revise and resubmit their work under a new manuscript number at any time. The resubmission will be linked to the original submission but there will be no expectation of acceptance. The resubmission will be treated as new.

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