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DESCRIPTION

*Australian Critical Care* is the official journal of the Australian College of Critical Care Nurses (ACCCN). It is a bi-monthly peer-reviewed journal, providing clinically relevant research, reviews and articles of interest to the critical care community. *Australian Critical Care* publishes peer-reviewed scholarly papers that report research findings, research-based reviews, discussion papers and commentaries which are of interest to an international readership of critical care practitioners, educators, administrators and researchers. Interprofessional articles are welcomed.

IMPACT FACTOR

2018: 2.515 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2019

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

PubMed/Medline

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Australian Critical Care is the official journal of the Australian College of Critical Care Nurses and publishes peer-reviewed scholarly papers that report research findings, research-based reviews, discussion papers and commentaries which are of interest to an international readership of critical care practitioners, educators, administrators and researchers.

Papers should address issues of interest to critical care clinicians and present the paper in the context of the existing international research base on the topic. Selection of papers for publication is based on their scientific excellence, distinctive contribution to knowledge (including methodological development) and their importance to contemporary critical care practice.

The journal does not accept manuscripts containing animal experimentation.

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You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

Ensure that the following items are present:

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Submitted material will be handled in confidence except for the purposes of review and in order to investigate possible misconduct, including but not limited to concurrent submissions to multiple journals, high percentage of text matching and concerns around research validity, conduct and reporting.
Submitted papers should be relevant to critical care practice. As Australian Critical Care has a global readership, authors should place their paper within the international context. Details of national practices, policies, law, etc. should be provided in the paper to provide information for all readers. If possible, authors should consult a recent issue of the journal to assess style and presentation of manuscripts published. The journal is widely distributed internationally, and for many readers English is a second language, therefore authors are requested to write in plain English and use terminology which is internationally acceptable. While Australian Critical Care accepts manuscripts from a range of health professionals, it is important to recognise that nurses are the primary readers of this journal.

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The editors require that manuscripts adhere to recognised reporting guidelines relevant to the research design used. These identify matters that should be addressed in your paper. These are not quality assessment frameworks and your study need not meet all the criteria implied in the reporting guideline to be worthy of publication in the journal. The checklists do identify essential matters that should be considered and reported. For example, a controlled trial may or may not be blinded but it is important that the paper identifies whether or not participants, clinicians and outcome assessors were aware of treatment assignments.

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**Common reporting guidelines are listed below:**

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- **Quasi-experimental/non-randomised evaluations** - TRENDS

- **Randomised (and quasi-randomised) controlled trial** - CONSORT

- **Study of Diagnostic accuracy/assessment scale** - STARD

- **Systematic Review of Controlled Trials** - PRISMA

- **Systematic Review of Observational Studies** - MOOSE

- **Standards for reporting quality improvement in health care** - SQUIRE

- **Basic statistical reporting for articles published in biomedical journals** - SAMPL

- **Qualitative studies** - SRQR

- **Synthesis of Qualitative Research** - ENTREQ


Intervention description and replication - TIDiER http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/tidier/

Standards for Reporting Implementation Studies (StaRI) Statement https://www.bmj.com/content/356/bmj.i6795

Types of article

Australian Critical Care publishes original research, reviews, case studies and discussion papers. In addition we publish letters, editorials and commentaries on existing content with the journal. Where a case is made we will also publish study protocols.

Word limits - Our experience suggests that all things being equal, readers find shorter papers more useful than longer ones. Given this, and competition for space in the Journal, papers of between 2,000 and 3,500 words are preferred. Word limits are exclusive of figures, table and references. Additional information to enhance the manuscript, such as copies of developed tools or additional data, can be made available as supplementary files.

Exceptions - Authors of any manuscripts that do not comply with these restrictions should make preliminary enquiry to the Editor-in-Chief before submitting the manuscript.

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• **Reviews**, including:
  - systematic reviews, which address focused practice questions;
  - literature reviews, which provide a thorough analysis of the literature on a broad topic;
  - policy reviews, i.e. reviews of published literature and policy documents which inform critical care-practice, the organisation of critical care services, or the education and preparation of critical care clinicians will be considered.

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Case reports are valuable to the journal, but due to their nature, patients featured in the reports may be highly identifiable. The journal requires that proper consent for publication has been obtained and that the individual(s) being reported on, or their proxy, is aware of the possible consequences of that reporting, including the possibility that the individual(s) could be identified.

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**Research Critiques** - up to 1,500 words + 15 references
Critiques of research published in other peer reviewed journals may be included in each issue of *Australian Critical Care*. Authors wanting to contribute to this feature should contact a member of the editorial team editor.acc@acccn.com.au prior to undertaking work on submission. The research selected for critique should be of interest to the Australian and international critical care community, be referenced in an established database (for example, CINAHL, MEDLINE, or EMBASE) and have been previously published in English.

The title of the research review should be different from the title of the paper being reviewed. There is a strong preference for a declarative title to be used, for example *Early enteral feeding reduces septic complications in critically ill trauma patients*.

The paper should be formatted in two sections. The upper section should provide a summary of the published article and should be no more than 500 words in length. In the summary of the published article please provide detail on the objective, design and setting for the study. The research process used, including any interventions and outcomes measured, a brief summary of results and conclusion reached by the authors should also be presented. Participant details should also be provided. Reproduction of the article abstract is not permitted.

The second section of the submission, which is the critique of the article, should include the relevance of the article to Australian critical care practice, a critique of the methodological quality of the study, ethical considerations, and any limitations of the study. If the conclusions of this study are not congruent with other published work, this should be acknowledged. An assessment of the overall value of the article as a contribution to the literature and its usefulness to critical care practice should be included.

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300-400 words Letters to the Editor (about 300 words and 5 references) specific to papers published in the Journal are welcome. Letters to the editor should be submitted through the online submission process.
Commentaries - 1500 words + 15 references
Contributions that are of general interest, stimulating and meet the standards of scholarship associated with the Journal may be selected for publication in a commentary section or as a standalone contribution. Contributions should be submitted online in the usual way.

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Authors should make a case to the Editor-in-Chief for publication of the protocol. Study protocols that include an intervention are required to be registered should include the trial registration number and when the findings are due to be reported.

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Additional information about how Australian Critical Care handles competing interests of editors, reviewers and editorial board members can be found here (https://www.australiancriticalcare.com/content/aucc-policies-and-procedures)

Other/multiple and parallel publications
The journal seeks to publish original papers that make a substantial innovative contribution. Generally, the ample word limits provided by Australian Critical Care permit authors to publish all aspects of a study within a single paper. We do recognise that larger studies are often complex and lend themselves to more than one publication. In order to aid editorial decisions about distinctiveness and to avoid inadvertent duplication please upload copies of all previous, current and under review publications from this study.

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