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DESCRIPTION

The *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*, the official journal of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, provides scholarly clinical information and research regarding primary, acute and specialty health care for children of newborn age through young adulthood within a family-centered context. The *Journal* disseminates multidisciplinary perspectives on evidence-based practice and emerging policy, advocacy and educational issues that are of importance to all healthcare professionals caring for children and their families. For information regarding the submission process, please visit: http://www.jpedhc.org/content/authorinfo.

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

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TYPES OF PAPERS

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Full-length manuscripts may be submitted with the goal of offering CE credit (see Continuing Education below).

All correspondence once the manuscript is submitted, including the Editor's decision and request for revision, will be by e-mail.

**PREPARATION**

**MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION**

Manuscripts (text, excluding references and tables) should not exceed 5000 words. Department submissions have varied word counts (see Department Manuscript Preparation below). If abbreviations cannot be avoided, use the expanded form when first mentioned and abbreviate thereafter. Use generic drug and equipment names (trade names may be listed in parentheses at the point of first mention). If it is necessary to mention a trade name for equipment, the name must be followed immediately by the manufacturer's name and city/state. Pagination should begin with the title page as page 1 and continue through the entire manuscript. To each page, add Line Numbers, a function of Microsoft Word, prior to submitting.

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CONTINUING EDUCATION MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION
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2. List three to five objectives, using action verbs that require readers to demonstrate their understanding of the topic (e.g., Explain the pathophysiology of..., Recommend an appropriate approach...Discuss important considerations...)

3. A researched, referenced manuscript of approximately 6000 words (including objectives, tables, and posttest questions/answers). The text must provide current, advanced, testable information on clinical or professional topics.

4. Ten multiple-choice questions with 4 responses each or true/false items with the correct answers indicated. (See "Tips for Writing Test Questions.")

5. A curriculum vitae for each author should be sent to lnelsen@napnap.org upon acceptance.

6. A faculty declaration form for NAPNAP must be completed by all authors. This form can be accessed at http://www.jpedhc.org. Completed forms should be returned to lnelsen@napnap.org.

Tips for Writing Test Questions

Questions should measure the mastery of the objectives and article content. Ideally, the majority of questions should be designed for the reader to apply the knowledge learned from reading the article as opposed to simple recall of information.

1. Be sure the order of questions matches the sequence information in the article. For example, question #1 should correspond to the information that appears in the article first.

2. After you have finished writing the test, be certain that the test includes questions that relate to each objective.

3. Make all questions multiple choice or true/false with possible options labeled "a," "b," "c," "d" for multiple choice and "a" or "b" for true or false.

4. Be certain that the 3 incorrect options are not plausible.

5. Use the same terminology in the test as in the narrative. (For example, if the narrative refers only to "hypertension," use "hypertension," not "high blood pressure," in the test.)

6. Make sure the correct option is derived directly from the narrative and clearly defensible as the best answer.

7. Avoid using words in the correct option that are also found in the stem (the first part of the question). Doing so provides "clues" to the correct answer.

8. Make sure that the options are not mutually exclusive. For example, if option "a" reads, "Slows the heart rate," and option "b" reads, "Increases the heart rate," these 2 options are mutually exclusive. The test taker can be reasonably certain that "c" and "d" are extraneous, and that either "a" or "b" is the correct answer.

9. Be sure that 1 or more of the options are not included in another option. For example, if option "a" reads, "Affects the heart rate," and option "b" reads, "Slows the heart rate," option "b" is actually included in option "a." Thus, if "b" is a correct response, "a" is also.
10. Include an answer key. The editor reserves the right to edit questions submitted for purposes of clarity and accuracy. The editors acknowledge the challenge of constructing a posttest that is accurate and clear.

11. Posttest questions and answers should be submitted as a separate submission on EES.

**Continuing Education Approval Procedure**

1. The number of contact hours is assigned by the Education department of NAPNAP.

2. One member of the CE Committee not associated with the *JPHC*, who matches the profile of the average *JPHC* reader, is asked to review the article. An average of the time it takes them to read the article and complete the posttest will determine the number of contact hour(s) assigned. One contact hour equals 60 minutes.

3. CE Articles are approved for 1 year. At the discretion of the Education department, the approval time may be shortened depending on the stability of the article content.

For more information regarding development of learning objectives and posttest questions, please contact Laura Nelsen at lnelsen@napnap.org.

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