DESCRIPTION

This peer-reviewed journal offers a unique focus on the realm of pain management as it applies to nursing. Original and review articles from experts in the field offer key insights in the areas of clinical practice, advocacy, education, administration, and research. Additional features include practice guidelines and pharmacology updates.

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.

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Scopus
PubMed/Medline
CINAHL
Science Citation Index Expanded
Social Sciences Citation Index
Current Contents - Social & Behavioral Sciences
Mosby's Nursing Index

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor
Elaine T. Miller, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, United States of America

Editor Emeritus 2005-2016
Joyce S. Willens

Associate Editor
Patricia Bruckenthal, Stony Brook, New York, United States of America

Assistant Editor
Marian Wilson, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington
Social Media Coordinator
Cecile B Evans, Grand Junction, Colorado, United States of America

Editorial Board Members
Kelly Allred, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, United States of America
Jinbing Bai, Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America
Michelle Czarnecki, Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Jane B. Pettit Pain and Headache Center, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, United States of America
Margaret Fischer, Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook New York, United States of America
Carla R. Jungquist, University at Buffalo School of Nursing, Buffalo, New York, United States of America
Mitchell R. Knisely, Duke University School of Nursing, Durham, North Carolina, United States of America
Marti Michel, IN, United States of America
Susan O’Connor-Von, PhD, RN, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Minneapolis Minnesota, United States of America
Ann Quinlan-Colwell, Wilmington, NC, United States of America
Anitha Saravanan, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, Illinois, United States of America
Ann Schreier, Greenville, Greenville, NC, United States of America
Barbara St. Marie, Iowa City, Iowa City, IA, United States of America
Helen N. Turner, Portland, Portland, OR, United States of America
Wendy Umberger, Kent State University, Kent, OH, United States of America
April Hazard Vallerand, Detroit, Detroit, MI, United States of America

Founding Editor
Christine A. Miaskowski, Novato, California, United States of America
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

Pain Management Nursing is a refereed journal and the official journal of the American Society of Pain Management Nursing. The purpose of the journal is to provide pain management professionals, particularly nurses, with excellent articles providing insights in the areas of research, evidence-based clinical practice, quality improvement, education, administration, and advocacy. Additional journal features include practice guidelines and pharmacology updates. Submissions must include a specific description of how the content applies to pain management nursing practice.

Article formats

Articles are typically 3000 to 6000 words (double spaced in APA format) and provide an opportunity to address important topics affecting pain management nursing practice. Topics can vary tremendously and focus on a variety of areas, such as reports of research findings, quality improvement projects, review articles, administrative or leadership challenges, special care considerations for selected patient/family populations (e.g., diabetic, obese, orthopedic, pediatric, older adult etc.), clinical consultations, or assessment tools used in pain management nursing practice. Within PMN, there are also continuing education opportunities. If your submission does not fit into the following formats, please contact the editor to determine if you should submit your work.

Research Articles:

Articles reporting original research are welcomed. These submissions when applicable must adhere to recognized reporting guidelines relevant to research design used in the article. Manuscripts reporting randomized control trials should refer to the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) guidelines available at http://www.consort-statement.org/ when prepared. For quasi-experimental/non randomize studies, the TREND (Transparent Reporting of Evaluations with Non-Randomized Designs available at https://www.cdc.gov/trendstatement/pdf/trendstatement_TREND_Checklist.pdf Authors of qualitative studies should also refer to the guidelines known as COREQ (Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research) https://www.elsevier.com/__data/promis_misc/ISSM_COREQ_Checklist.pdf Observational study reports (i.e., case control, cohort, and cross sectional studies) are referred to the STROBE Guidelines at http://www.strobe-statement.org/index.php?id=strobe-home where checklists are also available.

Quality Improvement Articles: For quality improvement articles, use the SQUIRE guidelines and include all elements listed. These guidelines are obtained at http://www.squire-statement.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.ViewPage&PageID=471.

Review Articles

The journal accepts integrative as well as systematic reviews of qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods research. For systematic and meta-analysis reviews, it is strongly recommended that authors follow the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines, available at: http://www.prisma-statement.org/ in the development of their reviews. Authors presenting meta-syntheses should access the COREQ guidelines already mentioned. As part of any review, authors are expected to include a statement early in their work about the type of review they are presenting and follow the stipulated guidelines. All reviews must contain clearly formulated research questions, explicit methods to identify, select, and critically appraise relevant research, report how data were collected and analyzed data along with a results section, conclusion, and implications of the findings to pain management practice. Meta-analysis (statistical techniques to integrate the results of included studies) may or may not be used to analyze and summarize the results.

Clinical Consultation Articles

The Clinical Consultation is designed to address important, recurrent, and challenging clinical practices for pain management professionals. The primary purpose of this feature is to stimulate discussion and advance pain management nursing and interprofessional practice. Readers should be able to take the practical, evidence-based information contained in the Clinical Consultation article and use it to more effectively manage a persistent clinical practice dilemma. The manuscript should include the following:
Clinical situation (presented as a question and description of an exemplary case study). Example question: What are most salient factors to consider in pain management of older adults following a hip fracture repair? How do you determine if your patient is depressed? Description of major current evidence-based interventions Concluding paragraph describing what evidence still needs to be developed and the rationale References to support your rationale for action Tables and figures may be used, but are not necessary unless they illuminate the content

**Special Features**

Policy, innovation, or other types of manuscripts that do not fit the previous categories.

**Format and Style of Manuscript**

The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA), 7th edition has the format for references, headings, and other matters. Check here for additional information about APA style: [http://www.apastyle.org/faqs.html](http://www.apastyle.org/faqs.html). Note below that PMN guidelines differ slightly from APA guidelines, for example, the PMN requirements of structured abstract and additional information about authors differ. Articles should be in a 12-point font, double-spaced, in either Times New Roman or Courier and as a Word document or as Rich Text (this includes all tables and figures) with standard margins (about 1 inch). Fancy typefaces, italics, underlining, and bolding should not be used except as prescribed in the APA guidelines. Articles should be submitted with numbered lines (formatted in the Word document) and the lines should be continuous throughout the document. The majority of articles should be no more than 6000 words including abstract, text, references, tables, and figures, except for the Clinical Consultation that is approximately 2500 words in length. The author is responsible for compliance with APA format and for the accuracy of all information, including citations and verification of all references with citations in the text. Spelling should be in American English. **Credentials** Authors should list their credentials in the following order: Highest degree held, professional licensure, certifications in the order they were received, fellowships in order received (with FAAN listed last, if this is one of the credentials). For nurses, if the highest degree held is not in nursing, the highest nursing degree should also be listed.

**Typical article content format includes:**

**Title Page**

**Title Page** Upload separately from body of the manuscript. Title page must include the following:

Title: The title should indicate the focus of the article in as few words as possible. It should not contain a colon or other complex structure. Titles should not exceed 10–12 words.

**Running head:** The running head is an abbreviated wording of the title; it usually is not more than four or five words and printed at the top of the pages of a manuscript. Prepare according to APA guidelines.

**Author information:** Indicate for each author: (a) name; (b) degrees and certifications (c) title or position, institution, and location; and (d) to whom correspondence should be sent, with full address, phone and fax numbers, and E-mail address; provide E-mail addresses for all coauthors.

**Acknowledgements:** If any acknowledgements are to be included, they should be briefly stated, such as name of funding source and grant number.

**Keywords:** A three to five key words that are recommended for use in indexing should be listed at the end of the abstract. Please use words listed in Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). The searchable MeSH database can be found at: [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh)

**Key Practice Points:** 3-4 complete sentences describing the main points of the article.

**Text:** When preparing a manuscript, make sure your purpose statement occurs early in the document (usually page 1 or 2). In addition, your manuscript must coherently flow from beginning to the end as well as contain correct information, spelling and grammar.

**References:** All citations in the text must be listed in the references, and all references should be cited in the text. References should be no older than 10 - 15 years (excluding classic references). Please use the most current references where possible - preferably within the last 5 years. Precisely follow the APA reference format adhering to rules for italic and plain font and uses of spaces, commas, and periods. Include DOI numbers for all sources for which they are available.

**Tables and Figures:** Each table and figure should be presented and submitted separately. Each table and figure should include enough information to show the specific measures, units, and statistical manipulations.
Permission to Quote: The author is responsible for securing written permission of first author and publisher for quotation or reproduction of any materials that require such permission. This documentation of permission should be included with the manuscript at the time of submission as a separate upload.

Submission Checklist
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:

A one-page cover letter must accompany all submitted manuscripts. In addition to the request for publication, the cover letter should address the reason the author seeks publication in this particular journal. The cover letter should also provide the name, complete address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address of the corresponding author. This letter should also state if Institutional Review Approval (IRB) has been obtained and that this submission has not been submitted elsewhere at the same time. The article was prepared according to format for articles and all sections included. All necessary files have been uploaded:

Manuscript:
Include keywords and abstract as appropriate
All figures (include relevant captions)
All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print
Graphical Abstracts/Key Point files (where applicable)
Supplemental files (where applicable)
Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked' for American-style English
All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa and must be in the 7th edition of American Psychological Association (APA) format. Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
Relevant declarations of interest have been correctly documented.
Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed (e.g. ethics in publishing, informed consent of study participants, etc.).

For further information, visit our Support Center

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in publishing
Please see our information on Ethics in publishing.

Studies in humans and animals
If the work involves the use of human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans. The manuscript should be in line with the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals and aim for the inclusion of representative human populations (sex, age and ethnicity) as per those recommendations. The terms sex and gender should be used correctly. Sex and Gender Equity in Research: rationale for the SAGER guidelines and recommended use | Research Integrity and Peer Review | Full Text (biomedcentral.com)

Pain Management Nursing also complies with the Ethical Guidelines for Pain Research in Humans by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP).

Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

All animal experiments should comply with the ARRIVE guidelines and should be carried out in accordance with the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments, or the National Research Council's Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and the authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript that such guidelines have been followed. The sex of animals must be indicated, and where appropriate, the influence (or association) of sex on the results of the used correctly.
**Informed consent and patient details**

Studies on patients or volunteers require ethics committee approval and informed consent, which should be documented in the paper. Appropriate consents, permissions and releases must be obtained where an author wishes to include case details or other personal information or images of patients and any other individuals in an Elsevier publication. Written consents must be retained by the author but copies should not be provided to the journal. Only if specifically requested by the journal in exceptional circumstances (for example if a legal issue arises) the author must provide copies of the consents or evidence that such consents have been obtained. For more information, please review the Elsevier Policy on the Use of Images or Personal Information of Patients or other Individuals. Unless you have written permission from the patient (or, where applicable, the next of kin), the personal details of any patient included in any part of the article and in any supplementary materials (including all illustrations and videos) must be removed before submission.

**Conflict of Interest**

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors must disclose any interests in two places: 1. A declaration of conflict of interest statement in the title page file (if double anonymized) or the manuscript file (if single anonymized). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of conflict of interest: none'. This summary statement will be ultimately published if the article is accepted. 2. Detailed disclosures as part of a separate Declaration of Interest form, which forms part of the journal's official records. It is important for potential interests to be declared in both places and that the information matches. More information.

**Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing**

The below guidance only refers to the writing process, and not to the use of AI tools to analyse and draw insights from data as part of the research process.

Where authors use generative artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process, authors should only use these technologies to improve readability and language. Applying the technology should be done with human oversight and control, and authors should carefully review and edit the result, as AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete or biased. AI and AI-assisted technologies should not be listed as an author or co-author, or be cited as an author. Authorship implies responsibilities and tasks that can only be attributed to and performed by humans, as outlined in Elsevier’s AI policy for authors.

Authors should disclose in their manuscript the use of AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by following the instructions below. A statement will appear in the published work. Please note that authors are ultimately responsible and accountable for the contents of the work.

**Disclosure instructions**

Authors must disclose the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by adding a statement at the end of their manuscript in the core manuscript file, before the References list. The statement should be placed in a new section entitled ‘Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process’.

Statement: During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.

This declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, references etc. If there is nothing to disclose, there is no need to add a statement.

**Submission declaration and verification**

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis, see ‘Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication’ for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in
English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify compliance, your article may be checked by Crossref Similarity Check and other originality or duplicate checking software.

**Use of inclusive language**

Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Content should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader; contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition; and use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, stereotypes, slang, reference to dominant culture and/or cultural assumptions. We advise to seek gender neutrality by using plural nouns ("clinicians, patients/clients") as default/wherever possible to avoid using "he, she," or "he/she." We recommend avoiding the use of descriptors that refer to personal attributes such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition unless they are relevant and valid. When coding terminology is used, we recommend to avoid offensive or exclusionary terms such as "master", "slave", "blacklist" and "whitelist". We suggest using alternatives that are more appropriate and (self-) explanatory such as "primary", "secondary", "blocklist" and "allowlist". These guidelines are meant as a point of reference to help identify appropriate language but are by no means exhaustive or definitive.

**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**

*Pain Management Nursing* requires authorship to include a registered nurse as part of the paper to be considered for acceptance.

All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, (3) final approval of the version to be submitted.
Changes to authorship
Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed.

Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors after the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

Article transfer service
This journal uses the Elsevier Article Transfer Service to find the best home for your manuscript. This means that if an editor feels your manuscript is more suitable for an alternative journal, you might be asked to consider transferring the manuscript to such a journal. The recommendation might be provided by a Journal Editor, a dedicated Scientific Managing Editor, a tool assisted recommendation, or a combination. If you agree, your manuscript will be transferred, though you will have the opportunity to make changes to the manuscript before the submission is complete. Please note that your manuscript will be independently reviewed by the new journal. More information.

Copyright
Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (see more information on this). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. Permission of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has preprinted forms for use by authors in these cases.

For gold open access articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'License Agreement' (more information). Permitted third party reuse of gold open access articles is determined by the author's choice of user license.

Author rights
As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. More information.

Elsevier supports responsible sharing
Find out how you can share your research published in Elsevier journals.

Role of the funding source
You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement, it is recommended to state this.

Open access
Please visit our Open Access page for more information.

The gold open access publication fee for this journal is USD 2850, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy: https://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing.
Language services
Please write your text in American English. Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the English Language Editing service available from Elsevier's WebShop https://webshop.elsevier.com/language-editing-services/language-editing/ or visit our customer support site https://service.elsevier.com for more information.

Submission
Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. The system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

Submit your article

Cover Letter
A one-page cover letter must accompany all submitted manuscripts. In addition to the request for publication, the cover letter should address the reason the author seeks publication in this particular journal. The cover letter should also provide the name, complete address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address of the corresponding author.

PREPARATION

Queries
For questions about the editorial process (including the status of manuscripts under review) or for technical support on submissions, please visit our Support Center.

Peer review
This journal operates a double anonymized review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. Editors are not involved in decisions about papers which they have written themselves or have been written by family members or colleagues or which relate to products or services in which the editor has an interest. Any such submission is subject to all of the journal's usual procedures, with peer review handled independently of the relevant editor and their research groups. More information on types of peer review.

Double anonymized review
This journal uses double anonymized review, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. More information is available on our website. To facilitate this, please include the following separately:

Title page (with author details): This should include the title, authors' names, affiliations, acknowledgements and any Declaration of Interest statement, and a complete address for the corresponding author including an e-mail address.

Anonymized manuscript (no author details): The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, tables and any acknowledgements) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

Use of word processing software
It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.
Article structure
Subdivision - unnumbered sections
Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Each subsection is given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Subsections should be used as much as possible when cross-referencing text: refer to the subsection by heading as opposed to simply 'the text'.

Level Headings
The content of your paper should determine the level headings used. For quantitative research papers the level headings should include the usual layout such as Background (including problem, purpose and significance); Literature Review; Methods (including research question, design, & procedures); Data/Results; Discussion; Implications for nursing education, practice and research; and Conclusions. Be sure to refer to the APA manual for the proper placement of level headings within the manuscript (see APA, 7th ed.). For reviews, the level headings should include, insofar as possible: Objectives, Design; Data sources; Review methods; Results; Implications for nursing; and Conclusions.

Introduction
State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

Material and methods
Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

Results
Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion
This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

Conclusions
The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

Appendices
If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

Essential title page information
- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name between parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
- **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.
- **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.
**Highlights**

Highlights are optional yet highly encouraged for this journal, as they increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the examples here: [example Highlights](#).

Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

**Abstract**

A structured abstract that summarizes the content, is required and to be no more than 250 words (not applicable to the Clinical Consultation). The abstract should be on a separate page and **not** contain references or abbreviations. Abstracts for research articles and quality improvement articles should include **Purpose; Design; Methods; Results, Conclusions, and Clinical Implications**. **Review article abstracts** should provide a summary under the following headings, where possible: **Objectives; Design; Data sources; Review/Analysis methods; Results, Conclusions, and Nursing Practice Implications**.

**Clinical Consultations**: This abstract is 100 words or less and has only two headings: specific clinical issue, major practice recommendations based on best evidence. Abstracts are not required for Editorials or papers about contemporary issues.

**Graphical abstract**

Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view [Example Graphical Abstracts](#) on our information site.

**Keywords**

Include a maximum of 6 key words for indexing purposes. The purpose of key words is to increase the accessibility of your paper to potential readers searching the literature. Refer to a recognized thesaurus of keywords whenever possible, such as Medical Subject Headings (MESH) thesaurus or Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health (CINAHL) headings (see [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html)). Key words are placed a few lines below the abstract on the same page.

**Acknowledgements**

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

**Formatting of funding sources**

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, it is recommended to include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

**Units**

Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI.
Footnotes

Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors can build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Otherwise, please indicate the position of footnotes in the text and list the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article. Do not include footnotes in the Reference list.

Artwork

Electronic artwork

General points

• Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
• Embed the used fonts if the application provides that option.
• Aim to use the following fonts in your illustrations: Arial, Courier, Times New Roman, Symbol, or use fonts that look similar.
• Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
• Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
• Provide captions to illustrations separately.
• Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the published version.
• Submit each illustration as a separate file.
• Ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision.

A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available. You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

Formats

If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply 'as is' in the native document format. Regardless of the application used other than Microsoft Office, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'Save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):

EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings, embed all used fonts.
TIFF (or JPEG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones), keep to a minimum of 300 dpi.
TIFF (or JPEG): Bitmapped (pure black & white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi.
TIFF (or JPEG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale), keep to a minimum of 500 dpi.

Please do not:

• Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); these typically have a low number of pixels and limited set of colors;
• Supply files that are too low in resolution;
• Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

Color artwork

Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF) or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) in addition to color reproduction in print. Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.

Figure captions

Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

Tables

Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.

References

Citation in text

Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these
references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

Reference links
Increased discoverability of research and high quality peer review are ensured by online links to the sources cited. In order to allow us to create links to abstracting and indexing services, such as Scopus, Crossref and PubMed, please ensure that data provided in the references are correct. Please note that incorrect surnames, journal/book titles, publication year and pagination may prevent link creation. When copying references, please be careful as they may already contain errors. Use of the DOI is highly encouraged.

A DOI is guaranteed never to change, so you can use it as a permanent link to any electronic article. An example of a citation using DOI for an article not yet in an issue is: VanDecar J.C., Russo R.M., James D.E., Ambeh W.B., Franke M. (2003). Aseismic continuation of the Lesser Antilles slab beneath northeastern Venezuela. Journal of Geophysical Research, https://doi.org/10.1029/2001JB000884. Please note the format of such citations should be in the same style as all other references in the paper.

Web references
As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

Data references
This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

Preprint references
Where a preprint has subsequently become available as a peer-reviewed publication, the formal publication should be used as the reference. If there are preprints that are central to your work or that cover crucial developments in the topic, but are not yet formally published, these may be referenced. Preprints should be clearly marked as such, for example by including the word preprint, or the name of the preprint server, as part of the reference. The preprint DOI should also be provided.

References in a special issue
Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

Reference management software
Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support Citation Style Language styles, such as Mendeley. Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software.

Reference Style
List: references should be arranged first alphabetically and then further sorted chronologically if necessary. More than one reference from the same author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters 'a', 'b', 'c', etc., placed after the year of publication.
Examples:
Reference to a journal publication:

**Reference to a journal publication with an article number:**

**Reference to a book:**

**Reference to a chapter in an edited book:**

**Reference to a website:**

**Reference to a dataset:**

**Reference to a conference paper or poster presentation:**

**Reference to software:**

**Video**
Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file’s content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the file in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect. Please supply ‘stills’ with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our video instruction pages. Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

**Supplementary material**
Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

**Research data**
This journal encourages and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings, which may also include software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.
Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. If you are sharing data in one of these ways, you are encouraged to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the research data page.

**Data linking**
If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.

There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the database linking page.

For supported data repositories a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.

In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

**Data statement**
To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the Data Statement page.

**AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

**Online proof correction**
To ensure a fast publication process of the article, we kindly ask authors to provide us with their proof corrections within two days. Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors.
If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.
We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

**Offprints**
The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized Share Link providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on ScienceDirect. The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Corresponding authors who have published their article gold open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

**AUTHOR INQUIRIES**
Visit the Elsevier Support Center to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch.
You can also check the status of your submitted article or find out when your accepted article will be published.