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DESCRIPTION

*Patient Education and Counseling* is an interdisciplinary, international journal for patient education and health promotion researchers, managers and clinicians. The journal seeks to explore and elucidate the educational, counseling and communication models in health care. Its aim is to provide a forum for fundamental as well as applied research, and to promote the study of organizational issues involved with the delivery of patient education, counseling, health promotion services and training models in improving communication between providers and patients.

*Patient Education and Counseling* is the official journal of the International Association for Communication in Healthcare (EACH) and the Academy of Communication in Healthcare (ACH).

**Manuscript Submission**

The journal welcomes unsolicited manuscripts related to the field of patient education, counseling and clinical health promotion and communication in medicine. During submission, authors can select a category from the list below. The type of manuscript should be indicated in the cover letter.

**Original Articles** - Preference is given to empirical research which examines such topics as adherence to therapeutic regimens, provider-patient communication, patient participation in health care, degree of social support, decision-making skills, anxiety, physiological changes, or health/functional status. Maximum 4000 words. Please note that manuscript wordcounts EXCLUDE the following in the count: Abstract, acknowledgements, references, tables, figures, conflict of interest statements. Both descriptive and intervention studies are acceptable.

**Review Articles (Current Perspectives)** - In-depth reviews of the empirical research in one facet of the patient education and counseling including an analytical discussion of contemporary issues and controversies in patient education and counseling (maximum 5000 words not including references and tables).

**Educational Model of Health Care** - Case studies of innovative programs which exemplify the educational model of health care, for example, self-care groups, patient advocacy efforts, medication self administration programs and co-operative care units (maximum 2000 words not including references and tables).
Short Communications - in any of the above categories will also be considered (maximum 1500 words not including references and tables).

Reflective practice - The Reflective Practice section includes papers about personal or professional experiences that provide a lesson applicable to caring, humanism, and relationship in health care. We welcome unsolicited manuscripts. No abstract is needed. No (section) headings, no numbering. Maximum 1500 words. First name and surname of the author and his/her institution affiliation address, telephone and fax number and e-mail address where the corresponding author can be contacted, title of the papers and text. Submissions will be peer-reviewed by two reviewers. For further information on the Reflective Practice section see: Hatem D, Rider EA. Sharing stories: narrative medicine in an evidence-based world. Patient Education and Counseling 2004; 54:251-253.

Medical Education - Articles on medical education focus on educational efforts that target experiences, programmes and educational research on the teaching/training and evaluation of interpersonal/communication skills of health care providers and their attitudes and skills needed for optimal communication.

Please submit your article via https://www.editorialmanager.com/PEC/default.aspx

AUDIENCE

Patient Education Researchers, Managers and Counselors, Health Educators and Health Care Providers, Psychologists and Sociologists, concerned with information, education and counseling of patients.

IMPACT FACTOR

2022: 3.500 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2023

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Annals of Behavioral Medicine
PubMed/Medline
Current Contents - Clinical Medicine
Sociedad Iberoamericana de Informacion Cientifica (SIIC) Data Bases
CINAHL
Current Contents - Social & Behavioral Sciences
Embase
Hospital Literature Index
Pascal Francis
PsycINFO
International Nursing Index
Science Citation Index Expanded
Social Sciences Citation Index
ERA (Educational Research Abstracts Online)
Inventory of Marriage and Family Literature
Health Promotion and Education Database
Scopus

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

PEC Aims and Scope
Patient Education and Counseling is an interdisciplinary, international journal for patient education and health promotion researchers, managers, physicians, nurses and other health care providers. The journal seeks to explore and elucidate educational, counseling and communication models in health care. Its aim is to provide a forum for fundamental as well as applied research, and to promote the study of the delivery of patient education, counseling, and health promotion services, including training models and organizational issues in improving communication between providers and patients.

Patient Education and Counseling is the official journal of the European Association for Communication in Healthcare (EACH) and the American Academy on Communication in Healthcare (AACH).

PCI Aims and Scope
PATIENT-CENTERED INNOVATION
International. Interdisciplinary. Practical.

Patient-Centered Innovation is an online, peer-reviewed, special feature of Patient Education and Counseling (PEC), launching in 2018. Content will focus on work that brings patient perspectives into the design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions intended to improve health and transform health care delivery. As part of PEC, articles in Patient-Centered Innovation will be indexed in Medline/PubMed.

Innovation requires ideas and execution: It involves a disciplined process of defining problems to be solved, developing solutions for transformational change, implementing solutions, and measuring impact. Ideally, patient-centered innovation embraces patient perspectives in problem definition and solution design, and measures impact in terms of outcomes that matter to patients. The scope includes the full range of interpersonal, group, mediated, and technology-enabled innovations and interventions.

By focusing on user-centered design and innovation with practical value, Patient-Centered Innovation aims to advance the pace and sustainability of meaningful change in areas such as care coordination, communication, health care encounters, medical and health professional education, patient activation, patient experience, patient and family engagement, patient involvement, patient-reported outcomes, relationship-centered care, remote monitoring, resilience, self-care, shared decision making, telehealth, and virtual access.

The Editorial Board will include patients and other laypersons, health professionals, innovation leaders, and social scientists. The editorial process will assess scientific quality of the work as well as relevance and utility to patients and health professionals in real-world settings. Robust use of established measures is encouraged unless there is clear need for a new measurement approach.

In addition to empirical studies on the outcomes of patient-centered innovation, thoughtful articles on innovation design and development, innovation capacity and sustainability, patient-centered research design, feasibility studies, and/or negative findings are welcome, as they can be instructive for others in the field. In an effort to build a coherent literature base and common vocabulary, Patient-Centered Innovation will include editorials and primers with essential background and context.

Please see the Author Instructions for more information on submission guidelines.

Gregory Makoul PhD MS (United States) will serve as Editor-in-Chief, with Sara Rubinelli PhD (Switzerland), Angela Liu PhD MBA (China), Sandra van Dulmen PhD (The Netherlands), Jon Vozenilek MD (United States), and Angela Zambeaux (United States) as Associate Editors.

Types of article
PEC manuscript categories
During online submission, the author can select a category from the following list: Research Paper, Review Article, Short Communication, Reflective Practice, Discussion or Correspondence. The type of manuscript should be indicated in the cover letter.
Research Papers Preference is given to empirical research which examines such topics as provider-patient communication, patient education, patient participation in health care, adherence to therapeutic regimens, social support, decision-making, health literacy, physiological changes, health/functional status etc. Maximum 4000 words. Please note that manuscript word counts EXCLUDE the following: abstract, acknowledgements, references, tables, figures, conflict of interest statements. Both descriptive and intervention studies are acceptable. Each Research Paper will also require a heading selected from the following to identify the section of the journal to which it best applies: Communication Studies, Patient Education, Healthcare Education, Healthcare and Health Promotion, Patient and User Perspectives and Characteristics, Assessment and Methodology.

Review Articles In-depth reviews of the empirical research in an area relevant to the journal, including analytical discussion of contemporary issues and controversies (maximum 5000 words not including references and tables).

Short Communications Brief articles in any of the above categories will also be considered (maximum 1500 words not including references and tables).

Reflective Practice We welcome personal narratives on caring, patient-clinician relationships, humanism in healthcare, professionalism and its challenges, patients’ perspectives, and collaboration in patient care and counseling. Most narratives will describe personal or professional experiences that provide a lesson applicable to caring, humanism, or relationships in health care. No abstract is needed. No (section) headings, no numbering. Maximum 1500 words. Submissions are peer-reviewed. For further information, see the editorial published in PEC: Hatem D, Rider EA. Sharing stories: narrative medicine in an evidence-based world. Patient Education and Counseling 2004;54:251-253.

Discussion Forum - papers in the Discussion Forum will include two categories: Discussion Papers (up to 3000 words) with discussion and commentary on relevant topics within the Aims and Scope of the journal. A Discussion paper should elucidate a theory, concept or problem in an area relevant to the journal. Correspondence Papers (up to 1500 words) with brief comments on articles in previous issues of the journal.

Guidelines We encourage authors to consult appropriate guidance, depending on the design of their study. For randomized trials, consult CONSORT (Consolidated Standards Of Reporting Trials). For systematic reviews and meta-analyses consult PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) http://www.prisma-statement.org/ For statistical analysis and reporting, consult SAMPL (Basic Statistical Reporting for Articles Published in Biomedical Journals: The "Statistical Analyses and Methods in the Published Literature") http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/sampl/ For qualitative studies, see specific editorials published in PEC: Finset A. Qualitative methods in communication and patient education research. Patient Educ Couns, Volume 73, Issue 1, October 2008, Pages 1-2. DOI: 10.1016/j.pec.2008.08.004 Salmon P. Assessing the quality of qualitative research. Patient Educ Couns Volume 90, Issue 1, January 2013, Pages 1-3. DOI: 10.1016/j.pec.2012.11.018 Salmon P, and Young B. Qualitative methods can test and challenge what we think we know about clinical communication - if they are not too constrained by methodological 'brands'. Patient Educ Couns Volume 101, Issue 9, September 2018, Pages 1515-1517. DOI: 10.1016/j.pec.2018.07.005

PCI author instructions

PATIENT-CENTERED INNOVATION
International. Interdisciplinary. Practical.

Author instructions

In general, submissions to Patient-Centered Innovation should clearly reflect the Aims and Scope, with a focus on bringing patient perspectives into the design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions intended to improve health and transform health care delivery. The editors are particularly interested in submissions that highlight user-centered design and innovation with practical value that can advance the pace and sustainability of meaningful change in areas such as care coordination, communication, health care encounters, medical and health professional education,
patient activation, patient experience, patient and family engagement, patient involvement, patient-reported outcomes, relationship-centered care, remote monitoring, resilience, self-care, shared decision making, telehealth, and virtual access.

As Patient-Centered Innovation is a special feature of Patient Education and Counseling (PEC), authors will use the PEC site for online submission. The first line of the cover letter must: (1) clearly state that the manuscript is being submitted for Patient-Centered Innovation; (2) clearly indicate the type of submission by choosing a category from the following list:

- Research Articles - 2500 words
- Review Articles - 3500 words
- Invited Articles + Primers - 2500 words
- Commentaries + Letters - 500 words

Authors must follow the category-specific instructions before submitting a manuscript. Research Articles, Review Articles, Invited Articles + Primers will go through a rigorous peer-review process to assess scientific quality as well as relevance and utility to patients and health professionals in real-world settings. All accepted and published submissions will be open to a constructive exchange of ideas with a diverse group of stakeholders.

**PCI: Research Articles (2500 words).** Preference is given to empirical research that either sets the stage for patient-centered innovation (e.g., well designed feasibility studies) or measures the impact of interventions intended to improve health and transform health care delivery. Thoughtful articles on patient-centered research design and/or negative findings are welcome, as they can be instructive for others in the field. Robust use of established measures is encouraged unless there is clear need for a new measurement approach. All Research Articles should have a structured abstract of up to 300 words, using the following subheadings:

- **Background** defining the problem to be solved
- **Objective** testing the innovation intended to solve the problem
- **Patient Involvement** outlining if/how patients were involved in problem definition, solution design or selection, and impact measurement
- **Methods** making the process understandable and replicable
- **Results** presenting major findings with appropriate, compelling visualizations
- **Discussion** integrating results and implications, with attention to limitations, sustainability and spread
- **Practical Value** clearly stating why the results of this study matter at a very practical level (i.e., answer the 'so what?' question)
- **Funding** sources and role, if any, of the funding organization in the study and/or submission

While the SQUIRE Guidelines were constructed for quality improvement work, authors may find them helpful when constructing their submissions to Patient Centered-Innovation.

**PCI: Review Articles (3500 words).** Given the variety and volume of work on innovation in health care, well-constructed reviews can be an extremely valuable contribution to the literature. Review articles should catalyze progress by highlighting overlap of, or conflict between, ideas and approaches. All Review Articles should have a structured abstract of up to 300 words, using the following subheadings:

- **Background** defining the problem to be solved
- **Objective** specifying the scope of the review and the question it aims to answer
- **Patient Involvement** outlining if/how patients were involved in the review process
- **Methods** making the process understandable and replicable
- **Results** presenting major findings with appropriate, compelling visualizations
- **Discussion** integrating results and implications, with attention to limitations
- **Practical Value** clearly stating why the results of this study matter at a very practical level (i.e., answer the 'so what?' question)
- **Funding** sources and role, if any, of the funding organization in the study and/or submission

All systematic reviews and meta-analyses should follow the PRISMA Guidelines.
PCI: Invited Articles + Primers (2500 words). In an effort to build a coherent literature base and common vocabulary, innovators may be invited to share lessons learned and/or essential background that can advance work in Patient-Centered Innovation. These may include articles on innovation design and development, innovation capacity and sustainability, health care delivery science, or useful definitions and approaches to work in the field.

PCI: Commentaries + Letters (500 words). The editors are very open to submissions - in the form of commentary on published articles, ideas for invited articles, and other correspondence to advance the field - from the full spectrum of stakeholders, including patients, caregivers, other laypersons, innovation leaders, health professionals, and social scientists.

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:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:
• E-mail address
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All necessary files have been uploaded:
Manuscript:
• Include keywords
• 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 / Highlights files (where applicable)
Supplemental files (where applicable)

Further considerations
• Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
• All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
• Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
• A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
• Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
• Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

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.

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 study.

**Policy and ethics**

For work described in your article involving human experimental investigations of any kind, must have been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the Declaration of Helsinki; http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm

**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.

**Declaration of competing interest**

Corresponding authors, on behalf of all the authors of a submission, must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. All authors, including those without competing interests to declare, should provide the relevant information to the corresponding author (which, where relevant, may specify they have nothing to declare). Corresponding authors should then use this tool to create a shared statement and upload to the submission system at the Attach Files step. Please do not convert the .docx template to another file type. **Author signatures are not required.**

**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.

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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**

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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. Important, 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.
Author contributions
For transparency, we require corresponding authors to provide co-author contributions to the manuscript using the relevant CRediT roles. The CRediT taxonomy includes 14 different roles describing each contributor’s specific contribution to the scholarly output. The roles are: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Roles/Writing - original draft; and Writing - review & editing. Note that not all roles may apply to every manuscript, and authors may have contributed through multiple roles. More details and an example.

Authorship
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.

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Language (usage and editing services)
Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). 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 Language Editing service available from Elsevier's Language Services.

All authors must include one of these two statements at the end of their manuscript:

(1) "I confirm all patient/personal identifiers have been removed or disguised so the patient/person(s) described are not identifiable and cannot be identified through the details of the story."

OR

(2) "I confirm that the patient/person(s) have read this manuscript and given their permission for it to be published in PEC".

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

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 single 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 one independent expert reviewer 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.

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