DESCRIPTION

*Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy (RSAP)* is one of several journals in comportment with the Granada Statements publishing high-quality, peer-reviewed content in health services research specifically as it relates to some aspect of the medication use process. The medication use process includes but is not limited to the prescribing, preparation, dispensing, administration, adherence to, evaluation, monitoring, and outcomes associated with legend or with over-the-counter medications, incorporating the concept of clinical pharmacy which aims to optimize utilization of medicines to achieve person-centered and public health goals. The medication use process includes attitudes, perspectives, knowledge, and behaviors of any actor in this process, including prescribers, pharmacists, pharmacy personnel, other health practitioners, patients, and caregivers. As such, the Granada Group journals often refer to “pharmacy” in their title or description, as these persons are central to medication use process; however, research articles reviews, and commentaries can refer to any person involved in this process, as well as any evaluation (e.g., pharmacoepidemiological) of the drug products themselves or systems employed to optimize the use process.

The Granada Group journals share certain commonalities and also goals to improve the medication use process and the outcomes emanating from this endeavor; however, each journal has an established niche and optimally suited for certain types of manuscripts. Further description of the aims and scopes of Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy follows below.

*RSAP* publishes twelve times per year, featuring original scientific reports, comprehensive review articles, proposed models, and provocative commentaries in the *social and administrative pharmaceutical sciences*. Topics of interest include outcomes evaluation of drug products, programs, or services; pharmacoepidemiology; medication adherence; disease management; medication use policy; drug marketing; evaluation of educational paradigms that could impact practice and/or patient behavior; and other topics related to public health in the context of pharmacy or medication use.

*RSAP* strives to become a widely recognized venue for publishing articles that proffer new models to guide existing research, make methodological arguments, or otherwise describe the results of rigorous theory-building research. Practice and education research are considered, with preference given to papers evaluating theoretical constructs and to those that might shape policy.

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AUDIENCE

Researchers in pharmacy practice and medication-use policy, including academicians in pharmacy, public health, medicine, and business and practitioners, clinicians, and consultants

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

PubMed/Medline
Scopus

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

**Manuscript categories**

**Editorials.** Editorials are brief papers that typically serve as an introduction to an upcoming series of papers or themed issue of the journal. They are often invited by a member of the editorial team.

**Research Articles.** Research articles describe experimental or observational investigations that used formal methods for data collection and reporting of results. There are no restrictions on manuscript length or number of citations for Research Articles.

**Research Briefs.** Research articles that can provide their results in a shorter format: they have a maximum of 2,000 words, exclusive of abstract, acknowledgements, figures, tables, and references. This submission type is designed for reports of research that are still of high quality but less comprehensive in scope and potentially not of the multivariate nature typically seen in Original Research articles. The abstract should not exceed 200 words. Manuscripts are permitted to have a maximum of four figures and/or tables and 30 references. These articles are indexed all the same as are Original Research papers.

**Commentaries.** Commentaries are papers on philosophical issues, medication use policies, methodological arguments, or other pertinent subjects. These are extensive pieces built upon a wealth of knowledge, and research and give rise to topics likely much debated in the scientific literature. They papers are accompanied by an abstract written in prose serving to some extent as an executive summary. Many researchers who have been exploring a topic for years are well-positioned to write Commentary pieces, which are often well-references and welcomed by the editorial board. Commentary papers are indexed all the same as are Original Research papers.

**Proposed Models.** Proposed models are comprehensive, well-executed papers that seek to propose and advance forscholarly discourse a model to guide future research or practice in pharmacy or medication use policy. There are norestrictions on manuscript length or number of citations for Proposed Models.

**Reviews.** Reviews are comprehensive, well-referenced descriptive papers on research topics directly related to clinical practice and/or medication use policy, or other phenomena that have implications for patients' well-being. There are no restrictions on manuscript length or number of citations for Reviews. Systematic review papers in RSAP are expected to adhere as well as possible to guidelines for systematic reviews by PRISMA’s Transparent Reporting of Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses found at [http://www.prisma-statement.org/](http://www.prisma-statement.org/). Scoping and narrative review submissions are also welcome. Should they be accepted, depending on the paper's final make-up, it could be re-categorized as a Commentary.

**Case Studies.** Case reports represent any of several types of papers, including but not limited to the piloting of a new measure backed by theory, collection of data from a limited geographical area or number of institutions that might otherwise be considered for Original Research, or additional data to evidence a phenomenon previously reported by the same or different authors in a limited venue, or set of venues.

**Clinical Case Reports.** Clinical case reports are short descriptions of clinically interesting patients or brief interventions occurring in a pharmacy practice setting. These reports are intended to provide sufficient detail into the problem/experience to tell the patient's story while also delineating opportunity for future pharmacy endeavors. Suggested section headers include: Brief Abstract, Background, Case Presentation

**Book and Software Reviews.** Book and Software Reviews are brief documents (700-1000 words) that provide a clear understanding of content in a book or software program, as well as the product structure, scope, and limitations. The reviewer should state the utility of the product for use by researchers or in the teaching pedagogy of research.

**Manuscript Quality/Reporting Guidelines**
RSAP is a theory-driven methods journal. It is expected that research methods and reviews (systematic, scoping) undertaken in papers considered for publication uphold the highest standards. RSAP, as part of the Granada Group of journals, emphasizes forward progress in actualizing the scientific paradigm of pharmacy practice and social pharmacy research. To that end, the journal, and its companion journal, ERCSP, have published an extensive number of methods-centric papers on a wide variety of methodologies, statistical approaches, research designs, validity/reliability analysis, and other. These cover a broad range of topics, from survey research and psychometrics, to qualitative approaches, observation studies, secondary/large database analysis, reviews/meta-analyses, bibliometric analyses, and many others, in addition to many papers on current highly researched issues such as pharmacy workforce, deprescribing, and medication adherence. While not required to cite specific studies published in the journal, authors are encouraged to refer to methods and/or topic papers most suitable to theirs so as to benchmark their paper against the level of quality being sought and in some cases be shown clear guidance as to expectations for reporting results when using these methods. While not an exhaustive list, a curated list of methods and topic papers can be found at [Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy | Research Methods Papers Curation | ScienceDirect.com by Elsevier]

**CONSORT Statement**
For reporting of randomized controlled trials: please use the appropriate extension to the CONSORT statement, including the extension for writing abstracts

**SRQR**
For reporting qualitative research

**COREQ**
For reporting qualitative research

**STARD**
For reporting of diagnostic accuracy studies

**STROBE**
For reporting of observational studies in epidemiology
*Checklist for cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional studies (combined)*
*Checklist for cohort studies*
*Checklist for case-control studies*
*Checklist for cross-sectional studies*

**PRISMA**
For reporting of systematic reviews

**PRISMA-P**
For reporting of systematic review and meta-analysis protocols

**PRISMA-ScR**
For reporting of scoping reviews

**MOOSE**
For reporting of meta-analyses of observational studies

**SPIRIT**
For reporting protocols for RCTs

**STREGA**
For reporting of gene-disease association studies

**TRIPOD**
For reporting of studies developing, validating, or updating a prediction model, whether for diagnostic or prognostic purposes.

CHEERS
For reporting of health economic evaluations
The Equator Network (Enhancing the Quality and Transparency Of health Research) provides a

Stylistic considerations
The style specifications for RSAP must be followed. Below are general guidelines for manuscript format and style. If indoubt about style, authors should refer to the American Medical Association (AMA) Manual of Style, 9th ed, or consult arecent issue of RSAP.

Title. RSAP is a truly international journal whose submissions come from and whose published articles are read by persons all over the world. In keeping with that spirit, we believe it unnecessary to identify a place of origin in the manuscript's title, as this only ‘regionalizes' the paper. PLEASE AVOID LISTING THE NAME OF A COUNTRY, REGION, AREA, OR CITY WHERE THE STUDY WAS CONDUCTED OR TO WHERE IT PERTAINS IN THE TITLE OF THE MANUSCRIPT. Exceptions are made when including or describing the implications of an official national program such as Australia's Home Medicines Review or the U.K.'s Health Living Champions programs.

Text. The text should be scholarly, readable, clear, and concise. Standard nomenclature should be used. RSAP prefers avoiding the use of first-person language to the extent possible, eg, "We studied...", "Our results showed that...", etc. Unfamiliar terms and acronyms should be defined at first mention. Manuscripts that were prepared for oral presentation must be rewritten for print. Authors of research papers are discouraged from writing excessively long introduction or discussion sections.

Word style. Consult a current edition of Webster's dictionary for guidance on spelling, compounding, and word separation. Foreign words, not in general use, should be italicized. For proper use of chemical and biochemical terms, mathematical equations, mathematical expressions, special symbols, subscripts, superscripts, or Greek letters, please refer to the AMA Manual of Style.

Numbers. Numbers must be written as Arabic numerals unless they occur at the beginning of a sentence, in which case the number should be spelled out. The exception to this rule is when the number "one" is used in isolation within the text and substituting an Arabic number would seem awkward (eg, "there was only one logical solution to the problem"). A number containing a decimal must be styled as an Arabic number. All fractions must be written as decimal equivalents.

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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:

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• Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
• Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

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Please see our information on Ethics in publishing.

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

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

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Submit your article

Assurances
For all research manuscripts (including educational research), the author should indicate in the cover letter that the research has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate human research or ethics review committee, or that it has been determined to be exempt from such review. For research that has undergone such review and approval, a statement to that effect should be included in the methods section.

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.

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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
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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. Papers should be given line numbers starting with the first page all the way through the manuscript. 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'.

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

**Methods**
Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference: only relevant modifications should 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.

**Essential title page information**
- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
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**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 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).

**Structured Abstract**
A structured abstract accompanies Review, Proposed Model, and Original Research submissions. It should have the following sections: Background, Objective(s), Methods, Results, Conclusions. Commentary papers are accompanied by a prose abstract serving as an executive summary. Abstracts should not exceed 300 words.

**Keywords**
Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using American spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.
**Abbreviations**
Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

**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, yyyy]; 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.

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

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**Electronic artwork**

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- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
- Provide captions to illustrations separately.
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- 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.**

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