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DESCRIPTION

Official journal of the Swedish Association of Midwives, affiliated with the Norwegian Association of Midwives, the Danish Association of Midwives, the Icelandic Midwifery Association and the Federation of Finnish Midwives.

A peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the sexual and reproductive health of women and men. The journal aims to serve its readers as an authoritative resource of disseminating significant sexual and reproductive healthcare related scientific information.

Our key audience:
- Midwives
- Maternity care and neonatal nurses
- Maternity service users
- Obstetricians
- Neonatologists
- Pediatricians
- Health sociologists and economists
- Psychologists with an interest in maternal and infant research
- Policy makers in sexual and reproductive healthcare
- Researchers

The journal welcomes original papers in all aspects of sexual and reproductive healthcare including:
- Family planning and contraception
- Pregnancy
- Labour and birth
- Breast feeding
- Postnatal period and early parenthood
- Abortion
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Involuntary childlessness
- Issues related to the menopausal and post-menopausal years
- Professional development and organization of sexual and reproductive healthcare

The journal publishes the following types of paper:
- Original research articles
- Reviews
- Short communications
- Letters to the editor
- Commentaries

Sexual & Reproductive HealthCare aims to have a role as a contributor of new knowledge and evidence to representatives of the health care sector and to society. The journal will present studies demonstrating sexual and reproductive health matters from a multifaceted perspective where the connection between these questions and the individuals' rights will be illuminated.

IMPACT FACTOR

2022: 1.800 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2023
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Contraception, Antenatal and newborn screening, Qualitative and mixed-methods research methodologies
INTRODUCTION

**Aim**

*Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare* is a peer-reviewed, quarterly, multidisciplinary journal of the Swedish Association of Midwives. It is a global forum for health research and policy topics. It publishes original research, scientifically-based review articles, study protocols and invited editorials and commentaries related to sexual and reproductive health care. Studies with various methodologies are welcome.

The journal welcomes original papers in all aspects of sexual and reproductive health including family planning and counseling, management of pregnancy, labour and birth, breastfeeding, postnatal care, parenthood, abortion, infertility and IVF, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV prevention, and issues related to the menopausal and post-menopausal years. Also welcome would be topics such as cultural, educational, historical and professional aspects of reproductive and sexual health.

The journal audience would include researchers, social scientists, health care providers as well as policy and decision makers in sexual and reproductive health.

**Types of Papers**

**Abstracts:** A structured abstract is required for all original research articles. The structured abstract, limited to 250 words, should contain all and only the following major headings: **Objective;** **Methods;** **Results** and **Conclusion**.

**Original articles:** a full-length report of original basic or clinical investigation (3000-5000 words including tables, up to 30 references). A structured abstract of no more than 250 words with the following sections (objective, methods, results, conclusions) is required. The rest of the paper should be structured as follows: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, References.

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**Review articles:** a comprehensive review of prior publications relating to an important clinical subject (2000-3000 words and 30-50 references). An unstructured abstract of no more than 250 words is required. The Introduction should indicate why the topic is important and should state the specific objective(s) of the review. The Conclusion should include the clinical implications and observations regarding the need for additional research.

**Guest editorials:** must not exceed 1,000 words and five references.

**Letters to the Editor:** a question or challenge to an article published recently in *Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare*. Letters must be received within 6 weeks of publication of the article to which they refer and should be no longer than 250 words.

**Study protocols:** will only be considered for proposed or ongoing trials that have not completed patient recruitment at the time of submission. Study protocols without ethical approval will generally not be considered. The Abstract should not exceed 250 words and should include; Background, Methods, Discussion and Trial.

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Qualitative researchers are encouraged to consult the guideline listed below:
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Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT)

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Reporting guidance
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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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View the Review criteria here.

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To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

**Article structure**

**Introduction**

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

**Materials and Methods**

The Methods section should describe the research methodology in sufficient detail that others could reasonably be expected to be able to duplicate the work. However, if the methodology has been previously published, the appropriate reference should be cited, and a full description is not required. Methods of statistical analysis should be identified and, when appropriate, the basis for their selection stated. Statistical software programs used should be cited in the text. *P* values should be expressed to no more than three decimal places. For qualitative studies, please explain all steps in the process of analysis so that the reader is able to follow.

**Results**

The Results section should present the findings in appropriate detail. Tables and figures may be used, but duplication between text and tables or figures is to be avoided. If quotations are used, please limit the number.

**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 are mandatory for this journal as they help 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.
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A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

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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**
Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords and avoid 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.

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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.).

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

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

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Electronic artwork

General points

• Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
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• 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.
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A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available.

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