**DESCRIPTION**

*Women's Health Issues (WHI)* is a peer-reviewed, bimonthly, multidisciplinary journal that publishes research and review manuscripts related to women's health care and policy. As the official journal of the Jacobs Institute of Women's Health, it is dedicated to improving the health and health care of all women throughout the lifespan and in diverse communities. The journal seeks to inform health services researchers, health care and public health professionals, social scientists, policymakers, and others concerned with women's health.

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**AUDIENCE**

Health Professionals, Social Scientists, Policy Makers, and others concerned with the complex and diverse facets of health care delivery to women.

**IMPACT FACTOR**

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INTRODUCTION

*Women’s Health Issues* is a peer-reviewed, bimonthly, multidisciplinary journal that publishes original research on women's health care and policy.

The journal has a particular focus on women's issues in the context of the U.S. health care delivery system and policymaking processes, although it invites submissions addressing women's health care issues in global context if relevant to North American readers. As the official journal of the Jacobs Institute of Women's Health, it builds on a history of valuing methodologically rigorous investigation as a basis for improving the quality of health care for women and the health of women across the lifespan.

The journal seeks to inform health services researchers, social scientists, health care and public health professionals, and policymakers and to engage readers in the perspectives of multiple disciplines relevant to the study of women's health.

Please note that we do not accept for review clinical case reports or standard literature reviews. Systematic literature reviews that include data syntheses (rather than just summaries of published work), and translational and implementation research studies are welcome.

The editorial board is also interested in empirical, methodological, and commentary pieces focused on the evaluation of sex and gender differences, with an emphasis on the reporting of stratified results over statistical adjustment.

All manuscripts are subject to peer-review under the direction of the editors. Published manuscripts are abstracted and indexed in leading services, including Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, Index Medicus, ISI's Current Contents/Social & Behavioral Sciences Research Alert and Social SciSearch, Sociological Abstracts, and Studies on Women Abstracts. Unsolicited manuscripts are invited that address women's health issues relating to the mission of the journal. Further information is available at http://publichealth.gwu.edu/projects/jiwh. The Journal is available online at http://whijournal.com and on www.ScienceDirect.com.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

**Ethics in Publishing**

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*Editorial policy for ethics reviews in manuscripts reporting quality improvement studies*

The editors of *Women’s Health Issues* encourage submission of manuscripts that assess the impact of various quality improvement initiatives in health care. These initiatives may be at the system, organization, clinic, or provider levels. Often the evaluation of these initiatives involves collection of data from patients, health care providers, staff, trainees, or others. Policies and practices with respect to ethics reviews for quality improvement projects vary, and institutional policies are not consistent.

Accordingly, the editorial board of *Women’s Health Issues* has adopted the following policy for manuscripts based on quality improvement projects that are submitted to the journal for possible publication.
1. When the manuscript is based on quality improvement activities conducted at an academic institution or a health care organization with an Institutional Review Board, or when the author of the manuscript is employed at an academic institution or a health care organization with an IRB, the author of the manuscript is required to provide a statement to the effect that the study was or was not reviewed by the IRB. If the study was not reviewed by the IRB, the reason must be stated. If the study met the IRB's criteria for exemption or if the study was determined to not constitute research, then that should be explicitly stated.

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PREPARATION

Manuscript Length and Type
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Systematic Literature Reviews Systematic literature reviews that include data syntheses (rather than just summaries of published work) and evaluate the quality of included studies are welcome. For examples of what constitutes a systematic literature review, please see the Cochrane Collaborative. Please note that we do not accept for review clinical case reports or standard literature reviews.

Policy Matters We invite authors to submit scholarly, thoughtful, and timely policy analyses related to various issues affecting women's health. These could include, for example: Policy implications of proposed legislation, regulations, judicial decisions at the federal, state, and local levels as they may affect women's health; Policy implications of current and future developments in programs integral to women's health (e.g., Medicaid, Medicare, community health, Healthy Start, WIC, family planning, public health, and private sector insurance coverage); Scholarly policy analyses of health and social issues affecting women's health from a historical perspective, e.g., the effects of delinking Medicaid from welfare and subsequent reproductive health choices, or the effects of state and national health
reform efforts on women's health; and, Scholarly policy analyses that contribute to our understanding of how effective policy actions can improve the scope and quality of women's health care services and the organization, financing, and delivery of these services.

"Policy Matters" submissions may contain recommendations for "next steps," however a key peer review criterion will be the extent to which such recommendations are supported by the rigor and comprehensiveness of the supporting policy analysis. Please note in your submission cover letter that you are submitting to the "Policy Matters" category.

The journal continues to give priority to scholarly health services research articles that report the results of original research and that improve understanding of how social, health care, and policy factors relate to women's health. We seek in particular research articles and commentaries that: Contribute to a better understanding of gender-based health services research and policy; and Document applied integration and implementation strategies that translate new clinical, health services, and health policy research findings into women's health care practice and policy

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