Journal of Nursing Research & Professional Knowledge and Journal of Health Research and Professional Practice

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief

Maj Siercke

Senior Editor

Maj Siercke

Section Editor

Helen Siercke

Editorial Office

Jan Kinck

Editorial Board

Anne Brødsgaard

Charlotte Nielsen

Connie Berthelsen

Dorthe Nielsen

Jacob Hvidhjelm

Mette Holst

Mia Ingerslev Loft

Ib Ravn

Karin Anna Petersen

Marianne Wetendorff Nørgaard

Rikke Terp

Susanne Friis Søndergaard

Mette Wagner

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

The journal publishes peer-reviewed scientific publications highlighting and disseminating knowledge relevant to all aspects of nursing or health professionals. SPL-Publishing is the issuer of the journal, which is a knowledge portal available at https://sygeplejevidenskab.dk/

The journal publishes high-quality papers that meet strict scientific standards and international conventions. The Journal is aimed at practising health professionals, students at all levels, researchers, and others interested in staying up to date on current health-related topics. The journal aims to improve the quality of executive nursing/health professional education and to develop new methods. In addition, the journal aims to stimulate nursing and health-professional research and professional development.

Each paper undergoes a double-blind peer review before being considered for publication. All published research papers are available at www.sygeplejevidenskab.dk in English or Danish.

Manuscript length: Main text, max **5**000 words. Abstract/summary**, maximum 250 words.**
Manuscripts of high scientific quality may exceptionally exceed 5,000 words. These will typically be syntheses of qualitative studies and mixed-methods studies. Any deviation from the required wordcount must be indicated and justified in the cover letter to the editor. Any such overrun is assessed on a case-by-case basis in dialogue between the editor and the corresponding author.

Headings

In the running text, headings should be short and precise and emboldened. Subheadings make the text more readable, and titles should be inserted in the Results and Discussion sections to show what the paragraphs concern. The editors may propose amendments to subheadings in the interests of digital readability.

Language

Authors should make every effort to keep their wording clear and concise. Abbreviations must be written in full the first time they appear in the text.

Manuscript submission checklist

- Cover letter
- Title page
- Why read this paper: 3 key points
- Proposals for peer reviewers
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Introduction/Background
- Methods
- Analysis
- Results/Findings
- Discussion
- Methodological considerations
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements
- Conflicts of interest
- Funding
- References
- Tables
- Figures
- Active links in references and AI declaration
- (Supplementary material)

Checklist guide

Cover letter to the editor

- State how the article will be of interest to the Journal readership.
- Confirm that the manuscript is original and not under review elsewhere, and indicate if the results have been presented previously, for example, as a master's thesis, in a poster or abstract at a scientific conference.
- State which EQUATOR guidelines have been used (see below).
- Justify any deviation from the maximum word count.
- Account for the author contributions that qualify them for authorship status.

Describe why readers should read your article

Based on three arguments (max 50 words):

- Key points
- Main results
- Implications for practice

When published, the items appear in a box under the heading "Why you should read this paper".

Proposals for peer reviewers

When submitting the manuscript, authors must propose at least two current external peer reviewers with minimum PhD level research competencies.

Conflicts of interest criteria: proposed peer reviewers should not have collaborated either previously or currently with the author, or be close colleagues, close friends, or relatives of the author. The competencies can be either substantial and/or methodical. Proposals for peer reviewers must be justified. Peer reviewers from other Nordic countries are eligible. If the manuscript is based on a master's thesis, the examiner cannot be a peer reviewer.

Cover page

Contains practical information:

- Title
- Author names in priority and consistent order, academic title, position, and place of work
- Use numerical notes at each authors name indicating affiliation with each institution.
- Contact details for the corresponding author
- Proposals for peer reviewers with justification

Title

The article title should be in a few concise words summarising the focus of the paper. The length should be max. 8-15 words. Split the title into a main title and subtitle if the title itself needs to be shorter. The title may relate to the methodology or the paper's central message.

Summary /Abstract

Maximum of 250 words, excluding keywords.

Indicative structure:

- Aim
- Background
- Design/method
- Results/findings
- Conclusion
- Clinical relevance

A summary or abstract is a condensed version of the article. It should only state what is already in the article's main text and must use no abbreviations that are not expanded. Reuse, but rephrase, any sentences from the article's main text, but eliminate redundant words.

Keywords after the abstract/summary: 3-6

Manuscript

Maximum 9000 words, excluding summary/abstract, figures, tables and references.

Introduction

Should describe:

- The background/issue
- Existing knowledge in the field
- The rationale behind the study and its aims.

The introduction should present the topics addressed by the paper. It should start with a brief general introduction to the topic, followed by a presentation of existing knowledge, covering recent and current research in the field, and justifying the rationale for conducting the study. Finish the introduction by clearly stating the aim or hypothesis.

Method

The methodological section must describe the research design and explain and justify the methods used in the study. Avoid generalised method descriptions such as 'qualitative interviews' or 'quantitative surveys'. Instead, describe in precise, specific terms which methods were used, and substantiate and justify them with reference to methodological literature.

Describe the selection procedure carefully and use flowcharts to illustrate the process. Describe qualitative and quantitative methods, permission to use existing questionnaires, designs, and the parameters of the study. Self-developed questionnaires, interview guides and literature studies must be documented in script or submitted as appended files. Data processing and analysis must be justified and supported by methodological references.
For qualitative study designs, the analytical process should be illustrated in a table or figure.

Ethical considerations

The study must comply with the Declaration of Helsinki, and the study subjects must have provided signed informed consent after receiving written and oral information about the study. If the study has been approved by a Research Ethics Committee, the Danish Data Protection Agency, or other supervisory body, this must be described, and the identification number stated. If the study has not been assessed, this must be justified.

Results/findings

The results section describes the following:

- The study's main findings
- The study's sub-findings

Here, the study's results/findings are presented without interpretation and in chronological and logical order. Start by describing the main findings, followed by more minor findings that nuance the results into an actual analytical section where differences and correlations are described.

Describe the general characteristics of the study population, such as gender and age differences, participation and response rates. Next, describe the main findings where the results are a natural consequence of the aims, methods and definitions described in the methods section. Conclusions can be presented using figures, tables or diagrams referred to in the text. Use headings and subheadings for the results. As a general rule, no references should appear in the results section.

Discussion

The discussion presents:

- The main messages of the study
- Existing knowledge in the field of study
- The weaknesses and strengths of the study
- Conclusions and implications

The study's results should include a critical assessment of the results and conclusion. Start by outlining the study's findings and present a comprehensive evaluation of the findings in the light of the topics addressed. Comment on the findings with reference to relevant research. Outline the strengths and weaknesses of the study and mention how they may have affected the investigation. Only results listed in the results section should be discussed in the discussion. Use headings and, if necessary, subheadings for the content of the discussion.

Conclude by highlighting/concluding, in a few clear and concise sentences, what new knowledge the study has provided and what **implications** it has for practice.

Figures and tables

The article may contain a maximum of six figures and tables all told. These must be submitted on separate pages as part of the main document following the references section. Figures and tables should be self-explanatory and as simple to understand as possible. Each figure and table must be numbered in the order it appears in the text and must have a short and informative caption. Figures and tables should be suitable for reading digitally on devices such as tablets and mobile phones.

References

The literature references must follow the Vancouver system. This requires that the literature references are numbered consecutively with a parenthesis in the text and kept consecutive in the references. The number of references is usually limited to 30. However, for systematic reviews, the references may exceed 30. Research articles with DOI numbers must be provided. Online references must be cited by their current internet address and the date on which they were accessed.

Duplicate publication/simultaneous submissions

Authors are not permitted to submit their article manuscript to other scientific journals simultaneously. The article manuscript must not have been published in any other scientific journal. Duplicate publication may be permissible in individual cases subject to agreement among the publishers involved. If the manuscript is based on results that are also presented in, e.g. a master's thesis, this must be clearly stated.

Authorship

To be eligible to claim co-authorship of a scientific article, the Vancouver rules must be met – see link: Vancouver recommendations.

This means that everyone must have participated in producing the article, and the following specific criteria must be met:

- The authors must have contributed significantly to the idea or design of the work or the provision, analysis or interpretation of data
- The authors must have contributed to the script preparation or critical manuscript revision of the content
- All authors must have approved the final manuscript
- Commitment by the authors to accept responsibility for all aspects of the work, ensuring accuracy and soundness and that it has been adequately researched and completed.
- Keywords after the abstract/summary.

The journal liaises with the corresponding author, who communicates the author's assessment and the editorial board's decisions to any co-authors.

Contributors who do not meet the authorship criteria may be mentioned under the acknowledgements subject to their prior consent.

Reporting checklist

The author's guide must be followed. Manuscripts that are non-compliant with the instructions will be returned to the authors. The authors must follow the EQUATOR guidelines for reporting research, and state in the cover letter which of these have been followed, for example:

1. Qualitative study design: SRQR or COREQ
2. Quantitative study designs: STROBE for observational studies and CONSORT for randomised studies
3. Systematic literature review: PRISMA or PRISMA-SCOPE
4. Mixed methods studies: GRAMMS

Submission of manuscript

Please submit your manuscript to senior editor Maj Siercke by email: maj@sygeplejevidenskab.dk, who assigns the manuscript a document number.

Two manuscripts must be submitted, one of which must be an anonymised document, for use in the double-blind peer review. This means peer reviewers are not informed of the author's identity, and the author is not informed of the peer reviewers' identities. The document title must clearly state which manuscript has been anonymised so that the file can be sent directly for anonymous peer review.

The article manuscript must be submitted in Microsoft Word format, and the pages numbered consecutively.

All text must be set in font size 11. Headings must be emboldened and have 1.5-pt spacing. No footnotes are permitted.

Journal of Nursing Research & Professional Knowledge proofreads the final document, but the authors must ensure that the manuscript is proofread before submission.

Assessment process

Initially, the editor assesses whether the paper script is to be rejected immediately or sent off to at least two peer reviewers. Based on the peer review, the editor decides the outcome. There are three possible outcomes: 1) the manuscript is accepted, 2) major or minor revision is recommended, or 3) the manuscript is rejected. In case of major revision, the paper is sent for peer review again.

Researchers with experience in the applied research discipline will conduct the peer review. The aim is a swift assessment process from acceptance to publication.

Submission of revised manuscript

After peer review, the paper is returned to the corresponding author with comments from peers and editors. The author must then prepare a document itemising how revisions have been adopted in the manuscript based on the peer review assessment. All relevant and substantial changes must be tracked in red in the manuscript.

Manuscript approval

The corresponding author is notified by the editor when their paper has been accepted for publication.

After approval, the manuscript is forwarded for technical and linguistic processing. This includes the title and headings. The corresponding author receives the manuscript for review and approval. Before final publication, a ready-to-publish paper is submitted for final approval. The format, titles, subtitles, sections and images of the manuscript may have been modified by this stage to meet Journal of Nursing Research & Professional Knowledge requirements for online publication.