

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS – PPR Journal

Submissions

Physiotherapy Practice and Research welcomes submissions in the form of original research papers, critical reviews (systematic or state-of-the-art papers), case studies, editorials, expert commentaries and book reviews. Letters to the editor are also welcome.

The journal will commission focused or clinical reviews in areas of interest; those planning reviews should contact the editor in the first instance. Physiotherapy Practice and Research also aims to foster research capacity within the profession and as such supports and encourages submission from new researchers.

Please read these instructions carefully as any manuscripts not complying with these guidelines will be sent back to the authors for revisions prior to any review being undertaken.

General formatting

All submissions must have a title and an abstract, be on A4 paper **with numbered pages**, be double-line spaced and have a margin of 2.5cm all around. Lines must also be numbered continuously throughout the text. The body of text must not exceed 12 pt font. Illustrations, figures and tables should be placed at the end of the paper (after the references) and not inserted into text. All articles should be written in UK English.

Title page

The title page should carry the following information:

- The manuscript should have a concise title (usually no more than 15 words).
- Authors' names and institutional affiliations, including the name of the department(s) and institution(s) to which the work should be attributed. Contact information for corresponding author. The name, address, telephone and **e-mail address of the corresponding author** responsible for correspondence about the manuscript.
 - A word count for the text only (excluding abstract, acknowledgments, figure legends, and references). Please provide up to 5 key words to assist with indexing of the article and place them under the abstract.

Abstract

The abstract should follow the title page, maximum word length 250 words. The abstract (using the headings in bold) should provide the context or background for the study and should state the study's purpose, basic methods, main results, and principal conclusions. It should emphasize new and important aspects of the study or observations. Manuscripts are usually (but not necessarily) divided into the following sections: Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion. Manuscripts should be approximately 3500–4500 words. Manuscripts longer than this should be discussed with the Editor prior to submission.

Introduction

The introduction should provide the context or background for the study. State the specific aim or research objective of the study or observation. The introduction should not include data or conclusions from the work being reported.

Methods

The Methods section should give the methodological framework of the study. The methods should allow a clear appreciation of how the study was done. Describe your selection of participants including inclusion and exclusion criteria. Identify the methods, apparatus (give the manufacturer's name and address in parentheses), and procedures in sufficient detail to allow others to reproduce the results. Authors submitting review manuscripts should include a section describing the methods used for locating, selecting, extracting, and synthesising data. These methods should also be summarised in the abstract. Describe statistical methods with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the original data to verify the reported results. Specify the computer software used.

Results

Results should be presented in a logical sequence in the text, tables, and figures. The most important finding or main findings should be presented first. Do not repeat all the data in the tables or figures in the text; emphasize or summarise only the most important observations. **Please indicate in text where tables and figures should be inserted using, for example 'Insert Table 1 here'.**

Tables and figures should be included at the end of the manuscript after the references.

Discussion

The discussion should emphasize the new and important aspects of the study and the conclusions that follow from them. Do not repeat results in detail or other information given in the introduction. For experimental studies, it is useful to begin the discussion by summarising briefly the main findings, then explore possible mechanisms or explanations for these findings, compare and contrast the results with other relevant studies, state the limitations of the study, and explore the implications of the findings for future research and for clinical practice.

Conflict of interest

Authors should provide a conflict of interest statement. If there is no conflict, then please state "The authors have no conflict of interest to report."

References

In accordance with the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals, Physiotherapy Practice and Research uses the Vancouver referencing style. Examples can be found at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html In the Vancouver style, a

consecutive number is allocated to each reference when it is first cited in a manuscript. Place citations as numbers in square brackets in the text, punctuation should be after the square brackets. Where more than one reference is used, numbers are separated by commas and consecutive numbers are joined with a hyphen e.g. [1,2,3-5]. References are listed at the end of the manuscript using the numerical order in which they are cited in text.

Journal article

[1] McVeigh JG, McGaughey H, Hall M, Kane P. The effectiveness of hydrotherapy in the management of fibromyalgia syndrome: a systematic review. *Rheumatol Int.* 2008;29:119-30.

Book

[2] Main C, Sullivan M, Watson P, *Pain Management* 2nd ed. London: Churchill Livingstone; 2007.

Note: Month and issue number are omitted from the reference. The titles of Journals should be abbreviated according to the style used in the list of Journals Indexed for MEDLINE, posted by the NLM on the library's web site <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/tsd/serials/lji.html>

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Research reports involving human or animal subjects must indicate if ethical approval was obtained from a formally constituted ethical committee, and that the procedures followed during the study were in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 1983.

Material identifying participants should not be published, do not use patients' names, initials, or hospital numbers, particularly with illustrations. If photographs of people are used, facial features must be obscured to make the participant unrecognisable and pictures must be accompanied by written permission from the subject (or their parent or guardian) to publish the photograph.

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present form, will be made by the Editor after considering peer reviews. The Editor will inform authors of peer reviewers' comments.

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