

# Author Guidelines for Journal of Nursing Measurement

*The Journal of Nursing Measurement* invites manuscripts directed to the interest of nurse clinicians, educators, and researchers. The purpose of the Journal is to serve as a forum for the dissemination of information regarding instruments, tools, approaches, or procedures developed or utilized for the measurement of variables for nursing practice, education, and research. Particularly welcome are manuscripts of studies on the development and testing of nursing measures, and evidence for the reliability and validity or sensitivity and specificity of such instruments. Innovative discussions of theories, principles, practices, and issues relevant to nursing measurement are invited as well. Letters and comments on published articles are welcome.

Manuscripts will be acknowledged on receipt. *Journal of Nursing Measurement* is a refereed journal. Following preliminary review by the Editors, each manuscript will undergo blind peer review by two experts in the methodology and the topic area of the manuscript. Articles are reviewed by members of the editorial review board comprised of measurement experts and also by individuals from the panel of manuscript reviewers who have backgrounds in a variety of clinical and functional areas. On publication, each author will receive a copy of the Journal in which his/her manuscript appears.

The following are guidelines for developing and submitting a manuscript. Manuscripts that do not conform to these guidelines will be returned to the author without review.

## Manuscripts and Other Requirements

1. Authors should submit their manuscript as an email attachment in rich text format (RTF) or MS Word 2000 to: journalnm@nursing.emory.edu. Mail submissions should include one original and three copies of each manuscript, along with one computer disk in rich text format (RTF) containing the full manuscript and supporting files (i.e., tables, instruments, pictures, etc.). A copy of the instrument(s) may be included in an appendix. Instruments will be published at the discretion of the editors.
2. Manuscripts should be professionally prepared in accordance with the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5th Edition, 2001.
3. An abstract of approximately 125 words should include the following headings: (a) Background and Purpose, (b) Methods, (c) Results, (d) Conclusions, and (e) 4 to 6 keywords.
4. Letters to the Editor should be under 300 words. Those accepted for publication may be edited or abridged.
5. The original document should be size 8.5" x 11".
6. Double-space everything, including references, quotations, tables, and figures.
7. Leave generous margins (at least one inch all around) on each page.
8. Type should not exceed 18 characters per inch.
9. Avoid footnotes whenever possible.
10. Quotations of 300 words or more from one source require written permission from the copyright holder for reproduction. Adaptation of tables and figures also requires reproduction approval from the copyrighted source. It is the author's responsibility to secure such permission, and a copy of the publisher's written permission must be provided to the Journal editors immediately upon acceptance of the manuscript for publication.
11. Place authors' names, positions, titles, place of employment, mailing addresses, and email addresses on the cover page so that the manuscripts may be reviewed anonymously.
12. All figures must be submitted in camera-ready form. In addition, photos and line art figures should be sent on disk (TIFF at 300 ppi or EPS at 800 ppi).
13. Submit manuscripts to: Ora L. Strickland, PhD, RN, FAAN, Senior Editor, *The Journal of Nursing Measurement*, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, Emory University, 1520 Clifton Road, NE, Room 366, Atlanta, GA 30322. Phone: (404) 727-7941; Fax: (404) 727-0536 or (404) 712-8872. E-mail: journalnm@nursing.emory.edu

Note: Authors bear full responsibility for the accuracy of references, quotations, tables, and figures. Upon acceptance of the article authors are expected to fill out the copyright agreement form and mail it to the editor.

## Checklist for Submission

- \_\_\_\_\_ Cover letter
- \_\_\_\_\_ Computer disk or email attachment in Rich Text Format (RTF). Disk must contain the full manuscript in one file;
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tables in another file; and other supporting files. Files should be prepared in PC-
- \_\_\_\_\_ Compatible word processing software, preferably MS Word.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledgments
- \_\_\_\_\_ Permission letter(s) (For reproduction of copyrighted materials only.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Manuscript: original and three copies (if sent by mail)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Author identification page w/email address
- \_\_\_\_\_ Title page
- \_\_\_\_\_ Abstract (125 words includes: background and purpose, methods, results, conclusions, and Keywords)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Introduction: includes purpose and scope of manuscript
- \_\_\_\_\_ Text pages
- \_\_\_\_\_ References
- \_\_\_\_\_ Figures or tables with legends

## Manuscript Requirements

### *Cover page:*

Place manuscript title, authors' names, positions, titles, place of employment, mailing addresses, and email addresses on the cover page so that the manuscripts may be reviewed anonymously.

### *Title page in this order:*

1. a short running head of no more than 40 characters (count letters and spaces);
2. Title of the article, which should be concise but informative;
3. Date of submittal (include date of revision submittal if also applicable and JNM manuscript number assigned).

### *Abstract:*

The abstract should appear on the title page and should be no more than 125 words. The abstract should briefly state the background and purpose of the study or investigation, basic methods and procedures (selection of study subjects, analytical methods), main findings (summarize specific reliability and validity data), and the principal conclusions. It should emphasize new and important measurement aspects of the study or observations. The abstract will include the following headings: (a) Background and Purpose, (b) Methods, (c) Results, (d) Conclusions, and (e) Keywords.

### *Keywords:*

Below the abstract, authors should provide 4 to 6 key words or short phrases that will assist indexers in cross-indexing the article. Keywords are published with the article. Terms from the medical subject headings (MeSH) list of Index Medicus should be used, if at all possible.

### *Manuscript Content Requirements:*

Data-based measurement manuscripts should include the following headings: (a) Introduction (purpose and scope of manuscript), (b) Background and Conceptual Framework, (c) Procedures for Instrument Development, (d) Description, Administration, and Scoring of the Instrument, (e) Methods (sample, procedures, and approaches to reliability and validity assessments), (f) Results (findings from reliability and validity assessments), (g) Discussion (measurement-focused interpretations of findings, limitations, and conclusions), (h) References, and (i) Figures or tables with legends.