

## Guide for Authors

### Aims and Scope

The Journal of Midwifery & Reproductive health (*JMRH*) is a peer-reviewed quarterly English publication of Nursing & Midwifery School, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran. This professional journal provides a venue for the publication of research relevant to midwifery and reproductive health practice by specialists and researchers in various disciplines including midwifery, reproductive health, maternal and child health, obstetrics and gynecology, sexual health promotion, women's health and nursing. The journal is an open-access free e-Journal which is sponsored and published by Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (MUMS). A limited number of journals in print form will also be published.

### Peer Review Policy

All submitted research articles to this journal will be undergoing rigorous peer review, based on initial editor screening and anonymous reviewing by independent reviewers.

### Submission Process

Contributions should be in English. All manuscripts should be submitted online using online submission system at <http://jmrh.mums.ac.ir>. You need to sign up and log into the system for submission of your manuscript. Please follow the on screen instructions during submission. After completion of manuscript submission, you can track the status of the manuscript by logging into the system. For any further enquiry you can send an email to [jmrh@mums.ac.ir](mailto:jmrh@mums.ac.ir).

**All authors should study and accept the copyright statment that is available . [click here](#).**

### Legal and ethical issues

- Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis) and it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- Also publication should be approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere electronically in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the copyright-holder.
- Ethics and malpractice statements of the *JMRH* are based on COPE's Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors and pertain to all parties involved in the publishing: the editor, the peer reviewer and the author. Plagiarism of text from a previously published manuscript by the same or another author is a serious publication offence. Small amounts of text may be used, but only where the source of the material quoted is clearly acknowledged. If there is an allegation of plagiarism, scientific misconduct or fraud, *JMRH* shall follow the recommendations of the Uniform Requirements and reserves the right to present the allegations to the author's institution or any other agency.

- Ethical considerations must be addressed in the Materials and Methods section. Please state that informed consent was obtained from all human adult participants and from the parents or legal guardians of minors and include the name of the appropriate institutional review board that approved the project.
- Published research must comply with the guidelines for human studies and animal welfare regulations. It should be stated that the study has been conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki.

## **Preparation of Manuscripts**

All manuscripts submitted to *JMRH* should adhere to the “Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals” which have been explained in the following instructions. Manuscripts should be concise and typed double-spaced in a font size of at least 12 points, double spaced with margins of at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) saved as Microsoft Word® 2007 format. Journal titles cited in the references must be conformed to the abbreviations used in Index Medicus and follow the Vancouver style as shown below. Manuscripts should be accompanied by a covering letter indicating that the final manuscript has been seen and approved by all the authors. The covering letter should also note the type of manuscript submitted (original article, review article, short communication, case report, or letter to the editor).

## **Types of articles**

The articles that could be considered for publications in *JMRH*, are as follows:

### **1. Original articles**

Original articles are scientific reports of the original research studies. The article consists of English Abstract, introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgements and References. Original articles should not exceed 250 words in abstract and 3500 in main text. The maximum word count for qualitative research reports could be up to 5000. The total number of tables and figures combined may not exceed 6, and the number of references may not exceed 50.

### **2. Review articles**

Review articles are the articles by well experienced authors and those who have expertise in the related fields. The corresponding author of the review article must be one of the authors of at least three articles appearing in the references. Systematic reviews and meta-analysis are more welcomed. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses should respectively follow the PRISMA and MOOSE guidelines. Review articles must include an abstract of no more than 250 words, a main text between 2000-3000 words excluding up to fifty references, and up to 6 tables and/or figures.

### **3. Short communications**

Short communications are brief reports of research works containing new findings, which are not exceeding 2500 words from introduction through references. The Short Communication consists of Abstract (an unstructured abstract of no more than 100 words), the body of manuscript, acknowledgement and references. The body of manuscript should also be

structured in four parts: Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion, but the Results and Discussion sections may be combined.

#### **4. Case reports**

Case reports are published only if the report is of exceptional interest. The case report consists of Abstract (unstructured), Introduction, Case Report, Discussion, Acknowledgements and References. Case reports must not exceed 1,000 words and ten (10) references and two (2) tables and/or figures.

#### **5. Letters to the editor**

**Letter to the Editor** is a question or challenge to an article published recently in the journal. Letters must be received within 6 weeks of publication of the article to which they refer and should be no longer than 250 words with up to 7 references and 1 figure and/or table.

#### **Details of manuscript structure**

The manuscript should have the following sections: Title page, Abstract, Main Body, Acknowledgement, References, Figures and Tables. Each part should begin on a new page in the following sequence:

**1. The title page:** A title page should be indicating the manuscript title plus the full names and affiliations of all authors involved in the preparation of the manuscript. One author should be designated as the corresponding author and full contact information including phone number and email address should be provided for this author. At the end of the title page, a short running title not more than 40 characters (including letters and spaces), a word count for the main text (excluding abstract, acknowledgments and references), a separate word count for the abstract and total number of figures and tables should be expressed.

- 2. The Abstract:** The recommended format for a structured abstract, with the following headings for an original article including Background & Aims, Methods, Results and Conclusion followed by maximum 5 Keywords at the foot of the abstract chosen from the last version of the Medical Subject Heading (MeSH).
- 3. Introduction:** This section should be concise and clear, giving relevant details and background and aims, providing a rationale to the study. The objective of the study and the main questions and their significance should be clearly stated. Only directly pertinent references should be provided. No data or conclusions from the work should be reported.

**4. Methods:** The Methods section should describe the research methodology in sufficient detail that other researchers could reasonably be able to duplicate the work. Study design and sampling along with selection and description of participants (inclusion and exclusion criteria) should be explained. Methods of collecting data including instruments, questionnaires, interviews, etc. should be elaborated. If equipment is used, its manufacturer's name and address should be given. Statistical analysis should be described by specifying the computer software employed and statistical tests used. Moreover, it is necessary to mention if the study has been conducted according to the Declaration of Helsinki, and that the subjects have read and signed the informed consent. Reports of randomized clinical trials should

include a completed CONSORT checklist (available at <http://consort-statement.org/resources/downloads>).

**5. Results:** The Results section should present the findings in appropriate detail in the form of text, tables and figures. Tables should be used only when they can present information more efficiently than running text. They should be self-explanatory and clearly designed. The contents of the tables should not be all repeated in the text. Figures should be provided only if they improve the article. Tables and figures should be restricted to those explaining the argument of the paper and providing supporting data. All the tables and figures should be organized in separate pages after References while their location should be mentioned in the main text. Do not submit tables as photograph.

**6. Discussion:** The Discussion section should be used to critically appraise the implications of the main findings as well as giving possible explanation for those findings and their limitations and to compare them with other relevant studies discussing discrepancies and similarities. The strength and weaknesses of the study should be discussed and recommendations for future research and clinical practice should be given.

**7. Conclusion:** In this section the new and important aspects of the study should be emphasized. It must be mentioned whether the hypothesis mentioned in the article is true, false or no conclusions can be derived.

**8. Acknowledgements:** This optional part should include a statement thanking those who assisted substantially with work relevant to the study. It should include persons who provided technical help or writing assistance and the departments that only provided general support. Grant support should also be included in this section.

**9. Conflict of Interest:** Any conflict of interest (financial or personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within) and sources of financial support must be listed in this part. This includes providers of supplies and services from a commercial organization. Any commercial affiliation must be disclosed, regardless of whether they provide the funding or not.

**10. References:** References should be given in the Vancouver style and numbered consecutively in the order which they are first mentioned in the text. Citation in the text should be in line with text in parenthesis with Arabic numbering style. The titles of the journals should be abbreviated according to the style used in the list of Journals Indexed in MEDLINE. Write surname and initials of all authors when there are six or less. In the case of seven or more authors, the names of first six authors followed by “et al.” should be written. The reference of information must be based on the following order:

**a. Journal article (With 6 or less authors)**

Hammarberg K, Johnson L, Petrillo T. Gamete and embryo donation and surrogacy in Australia: The social context and regulatory framework. *International Journal of Fertility & Sterility* 2011; 4(4):176-183.

**b. Journal article (With more than 6 authors)**

Byers E S, Sears HA, Weaver AD, Cohen JN, Voyer SD, Thurlow JL, et al. An adolescent perspective on sexual health education at school and at home: I. high school students. *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality* 2003; 12(1):1-17.

### **c. Book**

Glanz K, Rimer Bk, Wisvanath K. *Health Behavior and Health Education: Theory, Research, and Practice*. 4th ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass; 2008.

### **d. Book chapter**

Burns LH, Covington SN. Psychology of infertility. In: Burns LH, Covington SN, editors. *Infertility counselling: A comprehensive handbook for clinicians*. 2nd ed. New York: Cambridge University press; 2006; P. 1-19.

### **e. Epub; Article by DOI**

Nicolaides KH, Wright D, Poon LC, Syngelaki A, Gil M. [First-trimester contingent screening for trisomy 21 by biomarkers and maternal blood cell-free DNA testing](#). *Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 2013 Jun 7. doi: 10.1002/uog.12511

### **f. Online document**

United Nations Fund population (UNFPA). *Comprehensive sexuality education: Giving young people the information, skills and knowledge they need*. Available from <http://unfpa.org/public/home/adolescents/pid/6483> (accessed 29 August 2011).

### **g. Conference Paper**

Kiesel L., Sonntag B. Early pregnancy loss, is there any treatment? Can progesterone help? In *Proceedings of the 4th World Congress on Controversies in Obstetrics Gynecology and Infertility*, 2003 April 24-27; Berlin, Germany. p.315.

### **H. Abstract published in journal**

Amini rad O. The antioxidant effect of pomegranate juice on sperm parameters and fertility potential in mice. *Cell Journal (Yakhteh)*. 2008; 10 Suppl 1:38.

### **I. Thesis**

Bakhireva L. [Asthma control in pregnancy and selected drug therapy in relation to prenatal outcomes](#). Presented for the Ph.D., California. University of California. 2007.

**Abbreviations and symbols:** Abbreviations should be defined where first mentioned in the text. Please use the international and standard abbreviations and symbols. Standard units of measurements and chemical symbols of elements do not need to be defined. Avoid using them in title and abstract.

**Proofs:** Authors are sent page proofs for checking the production editor after acceptance of the article. Proofs are sent by e-mail as PDF files and should be checked and returned within

48 hours of receipt. It is the authors' responsibility to check that all the text and data as contained in the page proofs are correct and suitable for publication. We request that authors pay particular attention to author's names and affiliations as it is essential that these details are accurate when the article is published.