



Guidelines for Authors

(updated December 2012)

About the Journal

Nursing for Women's Health is an official publication of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN). Published since 1996, and currently edited by Mary C. Brucker, PhD, CNM, FACNM, it is a peer-reviewed, scholarly clinical practice journal for nurses primarily involved in the care of women and newborns. The mission is to educate, guide and report on evidence, trends and news related to women's health across the lifespan (including but not limited to the reproductive period) and obstetric and neonatal nursing. The tone is practical and reader-friendly, while upholding high standards for evidence-based, scholarly content.

Submission Criteria

Nursing for Women's Health welcomes a variety of manuscript types and topics, including but not limited to: review articles; practice innovations and trends; quality improvement projects; management of individual patients and patient populations; public health and health promotion; diseases and conditions; case studies; ethical and legal trends; legislative/regulatory news; or any other relevant, newsworthy topic suitable to the mission of the journal. The journal does not publish book reviews. We suggest that authors who wish to submit articles familiarize themselves with the journal by reading back issues and searching the online archive at nwh.awhonn.org.

Nursing for Women's Health publishes only original works. Manuscripts must not have been previously published and must not be under consideration by another publication. The journal retains all rights to works published in print and online. All authors listed on a submitted manuscript must fill out and both the copyright transfer form and the author disclosure form (both forms are attached to these guidelines and also available online as electronic PDF files). At the time when a manuscript is submitted, the corresponding author must submit copyright transfer forms and author disclosure forms for all authors listed on the manuscript.

Clinical Implications

Articles most likely to be accepted for publication in *Nursing for Women's Health* describe the most current evidence on a topic and also contain a section on the practical implications of the topic for clinicians, including but not necessarily limited to nurses. Ask yourself, does the article answer the question "So what?"

Article Categories and Length

Manuscripts can be submitted as feature articles, continuing nursing education (CNE) articles, department columns, opinion articles (commentaries), personal essays ("Reflections on Women's Health") and letters to the editor. Note: Department columns are usually invited, so please contact the editorial office at nwh@awhonn.org if you wish to submit to a column and have not been invited to do so by the journal editor or the column editor.

The following word counts are offered as guidelines:

- Feature Articles: 3,000 to 5,000 words, including references
- CNE Articles: 4,000 to 7,000 words, including references, learning objectives and post-test
- Department Columns: No more than 2,000 words, including references
- Commentaries: No more than 2,000 words, including references
- Reflections on Women's Health essays: No more than 1,500 words
- Letters to the Editor: No more than 600 words, including references

Publication Style

The writing style used in *Nursing for Women's Health* is direct, informative and conversational—the journal reads the way you would speak to your professional colleagues. When writing for *Nursing for Women's Health*, include clinical experiences and describe techniques precisely for the reader.

Cover Letter

Please include a cover letter with your submission that briefly summarizes the work; if your article was specifically solicited by the editor or a member of the editorial advisory board, please include that information in the cover letter.

Abstract

Please include a narrative abstract of no more than 125 words that summarizes the key points of your article.

Keywords

Please include three to five keywords.

Visuals & Graphics

Because visual aids enhance reader understanding, writers should include tables, lists, photographs, drawings, illustrations, etc., with their manuscript submissions whenever possible or appropriate. All visuals must be submitted along with the manuscript as separate, high-resolution (at least 300 dpi) image files, such as .JPG, .TIF, or .EPS files. We cannot accept image files in formats such as Word, Excel, or PowerPoint. *Do not embed image files within the manuscript; submit separate image files instead.* Detailed guidance on creating image files can be found at <http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/illustration.asp>.

Formatting

Please keep formatting to a minimum, because if your article is accepted we will apply our standard formatting during the editing, design and typesetting process. Use a plain, 12-point Roman font, with 1" margins and double-spaced lines. If your article contains text to appear in boxes, as many NWH articles do, please **do not** actually draw a box around the text in your manuscript – we will apply this during the design and layout process. Keep the text plain, as follows:

Box 1. Risk Factors for Gestational Diabetes

Age greater than 25
Family or personal health history
Excess weight

Blinded Author Information

Because our peer review process is blinded, it is very important that there is no author identifying information anywhere in the manuscript document or in the document file name. If your article describes a project at a particular institution, please redact that information or use a blank line (_____) in place of the institution name throughout the manuscript. If your article is accepted, you will be able to add that information back in before the article is prepared for publication. It is fine to have author identifying information in the cover letter.

Line Numbering

Manuscripts must contain continuous line numbering. To accomplish this in Microsoft Word (2010 version), click "Page Layout" and then "Line Numbering" and choose "Continuous."

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References

Cite primary references only. Seek out and use the most current and up-to-date references (evidence) in your text; lack of current referencing is one of the most common reasons articles are rejected for publication. By most current and up-to-date, we mean references published within the past five years, unless there are classical or critical older references that are vital to your article.

Matters of fact that are well-established in nursing, such as normal pulse rate ranges, don't need to be referenced. In formatting your cited references, follow the standards set for references only in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, Sixth Edition (APA) but also add in the volume number and DOI for the publication when available. Use generic names of all drugs and devices; put brand name equivalents (when applicable) in parentheses upon first mention in the text. To read more about APA style and referencing, visit www.apa.org.

Peer Review

All submitted articles are reviewed by up to three peer reviewers considered familiar with the specific subject matter. When necessary, articles may receive additional review to ensure accuracy and usefulness. Our process is double blinded, so that reviewers do not know the identity of authors and vice versa.

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MANUSCRIPT CHECKLIST

Your submission to the journal via Editorial Manager (www.editorialmanager.com/nwh) should include the following:

- a cover letter (if applicable, please tell us if your paper was invited and, if so, who invited it)
- a narrative abstract no longer than 125 words, which summarizes the key points of your article
- three to five keywords
- absolutely no identifying author information on any pages of the manuscript or in the document file name
- clearly organized sections with subheadings
- a section on the practical implications for clinicians
- all lines double-spaced and numbered continuously
- lists, charts, tables, illustrations or figures that enhance the reader's understanding of the topic
- artwork, photographs or illustrations submitted as separate, high-resolution files (at least 300 dpi) in .TIF, .JPG or .EPS format (formats such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint will not be accepted). Note: Tables and boxes do not need to be submitted as image files; they can be submitted as part of the manuscript Word document.
- a list of links to online resources for additional information, as appropriate
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Questions? Contact the editorial office at nwh@awhonn.org or call toll-free at 1-866-794-2337.