International Journal of Childbirth

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

All submitting authors are expected to read and follow the Springer Publishing Company Journals Policies and Statements (http://connect.springerpub.com/journals-policies-and-statements).

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The *International Journal of Childbirth* is currently seeking authors who are willing to contribute articles concerning the practice of midwifery, women's health, prenatal care, and the birth process. The journal encourages the exploration of the complex and contextual issues surrounding childbirth provision and outcomes and invites manuscripts from a wide range of clinical, theoretical, political, methodological, psychological, public health, policy, and multicultural and interdisciplinary perspectives.

The following presentation style should be observed when submitting a manuscript:

- **Clinical and Basic Science Research:** These articles should include an abstract, introduction, material and methods, case history (if applicable), results, discussion, conclusion, and references.
- **Reviews:** Reviews should provide a comprehensive synthesis of the available information on their chosen topic. They must include headings and reference citations.
- **Case Reports:** These should be brief reviews of either typical or atypical births and should include an abstract, introduction, case report data and findings, discussion, conclusion, and references.
- **Personal Narratives:** These articles should be first-hand accounts of childbirth experiences. References are not required but may be included when needed to support data or quotations from published sources.

Before submitting any manuscript, please sure that the manuscript is prepared according to the Publication Manual by the *American Psychological Association* (APA). Authors should also verify that all tables, graphs, and figures as cited in the text are included and prepared according to APA style. In addition to the manual, check APA's website for more information about APA style (www.apastyle.org/index.aspx).

Finally, authors should check to make sure that all references included in the text are accurate and consistent with those listed in the reference list. Manuscripts that contain these errors will be returned to the author before it is sent for peer review.

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Articles submitted to the journal should not be submitted to another journal for consideration to be published.

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MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Use Microsoft Word for word-processing the manuscript; pdf files are not accepted. This includes the abstract, body of the manuscript (including references), tables, figures, and appendices. Formatting notes are included below.

The following are the basics for all manuscripts submitted:

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- Left justify only.
- Leave a one-inch margin on all sides
- Order the pages as follows: title page (submitted separately), abstract, keywords, text and references. **Table and figures are submitted separately**.
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The manuscript should be organized in the following sequence:

1. Title page: title of article
2. Abstract (250 words) with Keywords (no more than 8)
3. Body of article
4. References (use Paragraph, Special, hanging for all references.

Other sections of submission: each submitted separately:

- Tables
- Figures with legends
- Appendices
- Biographical information about the author(s).

Abstract/Keywords

Include an abstract of 250 words or fewer. The abstract should briefly highlight conclusions of the article. Also include up to 8 keywords that describe the contents of the article like those that appear in The National Library of Medicine's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH).

Quoted material

All quoted material should be double-spaced and must be referenced/noted at the end of text. References/notes must include the complete source of the original publication, including page number. (See "Permissions" for details on obtaining permission to reprint quotations). Check APA for number of words for quote format.

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References

References should be cited in text and styled in the reference list according to the Publication Manual of the *American Psychological Association* (the most recent edition).

Articles will be returned to the author prior to review if APA style is not followed. The Editor will request a resubmission following revision according to APA style. Please use Microsoft Word's Paragraph, Hanging formatting convention for the Reference list.

Journal article, one author

Sherwood, G. D. (1997). Metasynthesis of qualitative analysis of caring. Advanced Practice Nursing Quarterly, 3, 32-42.

Journal article, two authors

Watson, J., & Foster, R. (2003). The attending nurse caring model: Integrating theory, evidence and advanced caring-healing therapeutics for transforming professional practice. Journal of Clinical Nursing, 12, 360-365. (PLEASE NOTE THAT JOURNALS USING SEQUENTIAL PAGINATION DO NOT INCLUDE THE ISSUE IN THE CITATION).

Book

Swanson, K.M. (1999). What's known about caring in nursing: A literary meta-analysis. In A.S. Hinshaw, J. Shaver, & S. Feetham (Eds.), Handbook of clinical nursing research (pp. 31-60). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Watson J. (1988). Nursing: Human science, human care. New York, NY: National League for Nursing.

Watson, J. (1999). Postmodern nursing and beyond. Edinburgh, United Kingdom: Churchill Livingstone.

The Reference list should be alphabetized by the author's last name and double-spaced.

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2. Number tables consecutively; mention all tables in text.

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1. Use 12 point, Times Roman font.

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5. Only use one space between words. Even after periods, only use one space. Before saving your document, search for two spaces and if they occur, delete the extra space.

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- When speaking and writing – Put the person first, then the disability always put the person first, then the disability. Say or write "person with a disability" rather than disabled person.
- Use disability to describe a functional limitation that interferes with a person's ability to walk, hear, see, talk, and learn. Use handicap to describe a situation or barrier imposed by society, the environment, or oneself.
- Do not be concerned if you find yourself using words like "see" to a person who is blind, or "hear" to a person who is deaf. These words won't offend.
- Do not refer to a person in a wheelchair as "confined" to a wheelchair. It's better to say or write "uses a wheelchair."
- Do not say "normal person" as compared to a person with a disability. Say able-bodied or nondisabled.
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- Do not say birth defect. It is better to say a person who has a disability since birth; a congenital disability.
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