Evidence-based quality improvement

In this editorial, I aim to clarify the scope of the journal and its requirements for reporting articles submitted to the journal for publication.

The scope of the journal includes the following article types: systematic reviews (quantitative, qualitative, and economic), methodological papers, evidence transfer papers, implementation reports, debates, and methodology papers. More recently, we have included original research articles that aim at generating evidence that can improve clinical practice.

For systematic reviews, we recommend that authors use the Prevention and Recovery Information System for Monitoring and Analysis (PRISMA) checklist. Systematic reviews need to follow a sound methodology such as the Joanna Briggs Institute methodologies or the Cochrane Collaboration for systematic reviews or other published methodology. For systematic reviews, we recommend that authors register their protocols in the database of prospectively registered systematic reviews in health and social care (PROSPERO). PROSPERO aims to provide a comprehensive listing of systematic reviews registered at the start to help avoid duplication and to reduce the potential for reporting bias by enabling comparison of the completed review with that which was planned in the protocol.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of reviews addressing single interventions with varying outcomes. This observation has led to the publication of umbrella reviews or overviews of reviews. Other types of reviews that have gained popularity in recent years are scoping reviews and rapid reviews. The journal welcomes submissions of these types of reviews where they are based on robust methodologies.

Evidence transfer papers relate to issues surrounding the dissemination, distribution, and uptake of research evidence to improve health outcomes. Papers may describe the format and delivery of information as well as issues surrounding acceptance of evidence to inform healthcare delivery.

Implementation reports include papers that evaluate the implementation of an evidence-based intervention or policy or the de-implementation of those demonstrated to be of low or no clinical benefit. These types of report should be based on a sound theoretical implementation method. These papers should adhere to the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) for reporting.

Discussion or debate papers should be based on systematic reviews of the relevant evidence and should aim at challenging an existing practice or policy or theory and suggest modifications.

Methodology papers can be based on new methodologies or offer papers that discuss an improvement to an existing method. Methodology papers should offer new insights into how evidence can be generated, or used in the healthcare system.

We also welcome articles that present original research with strong practice, educational, or policy implications and guideline development practices, developments, and advances. These articles should focus on adding new knowledge.

Because we aim to enhance reporting of new research and promote transparency, we aim to include a section for each manuscript for authors to state what is already known and what their work adds to existing knowledge, theory, and thinking in the field. This will improve the quality of published articles and inform readers about new knowledge.

In this editorial, we have clarified the types of submissions the International Journal of Evidence-Based Healthcare is currently accepting. We encourage future authors to familiarize themselves with the journal scope before making a submission. We look forward to the future as evidence continues to grow and evolve and to receiving research that continues to enhance the uptake of evidence-based practices and policies to advance the quality and delivery of healthcare.

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