

# Disability and Health Journal

The Official Journal of the  
American Association on Health and Disability

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## Introduction

*Disability and Health Journal* is a scientific, scholarly, and multidisciplinary journal for reporting original contributions that advance knowledge in disability and health. Topics may be related to global health, quality of life, and specific health conditions as they relate to disability. Such contributions include reports on:

- Empirical research on the characteristics of persons with disabilities, environment, health outcomes, and determinants of health;
- Systematic or other evidence-based reviews and tightly conceived theoretical interpretations of research literature;
- Evaluative research on new interventions, technologies, and programs;
- Issues or policies affecting the health and/or quality of life for persons with disabilities, using a scientific base.

*Disability and Health Journal* describes and analyzes health and health related states using conceptual frameworks, including the International Classification of Functioning (ICF), and the social and medical models of disability. The Journal provides a forum for peer reviewed articles that identify, evaluate and promote existing and emerging models of healthcare delivery and/or health promotion that contribute to the improvements of health across the lifespan.

The Journal focuses on individual health, public health, health promotion, health education, wellness, community participation (e.g., employment, recreation, personal relationships and access to services) and tertiary prevention (e.g., rehabilitation, reducing the incidence of secondary conditions).

## Types of Articles

**Original Research.** Original Articles are scientific reports of the results of original epidemiologic (including secondary data analysis) and clinical research. The text is limited to 4000 words (not including abstract, acknowledgments, figure legends, tables, references, and ancillary online-only material), with a structured abstract of 250 words or less (see instructions below for structure), and a maximum of 6 tables and/or figures total. Research reports must contain sufficient information to allow readers to understand how a study was designed and conducted, including variable definitions, instruments and other measures, and analytic techniques. We recommend reviewing guidelines and checklists related to specific research at the EQUATOR Network to ensure sufficient detail is provided in the manuscript (<http://www.equator-network.org>). **NEW:** Submitting a checklist such as that from STROBE is now a requirement for submission (see editorials published in the April 2014 issue). Download the checklist through <http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/strobe/>, complete it by adding a column that specifies where in the manuscript each component has been followed, and upload it with your submission.

**Brief Reports.** Brief Reports can provide their results clearly in a shorter format or represent pilot work, small number of subjects (including a case report if it represents a unique circumstance or experience), new methodology, or nonstandardized measurements. The text is limited to 2500 words (not including abstract, acknowledgments, figure legends, tables, references, and ancillary online-only material) and a maximum of 3 tables and/or figures total. A structured abstract of 250 words or less is required (see instructions below for structure).

## AUTHOR INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

**Evidence-based Review Articles.** Review articles should be developed with a search methodology and review process. The type of review being reported must be named (see Grant et al. A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies. *Health Info Libr J* 2009;26: 91-108). Methods must be described, including type of search, inclusion/exclusion criteria, review methods or process, and determination of levels of evidence or scientific rigor. Literature or narrative reviews that cite multiple references found through a library search are not considered evidence-based reviews. A structured abstract of 250 words or less is required (see instructions below for structure). The text is limited to a maximum of 5000 words of text (not including abstract, acknowledgments, figure legends, tables, references, and ancillary online-only material), with no more than a total of 6 tables and/or figures.

**Commentary.** Manuscripts are editor-solicited or negotiated after correspondence with Editors.

Topics relate to articles within the issue or timely perspectives on emerging issues in the field and may include presentations in such areas as policy, ethics, current events, or controversies. The text is limited to a maximum of 3000 words of text (not including abstract and references). It is expected that there will be references to support the manuscript content. An Abstract that is a brief narrative summary without subheadings that does not exceed 150 words is required.

Authors wishing to submit an unsolicited Commentary should send proposals with a brief, 250-word synopsis of the planned Commentary to [disabilityandhealthjnl@gmail.com](mailto:disabilityandhealthjnl@gmail.com) for pre-submission approval by the Editors. Authors of approved proposals will receive instructions for submission from the Editorial Office.

**Viewpoint.** Manuscripts are editor-solicited or negotiated after correspondence with Editors.

Subject matter will be opinions and judgments that are grounded in theory or trends and may include a single view or a point/counterpoint format. The purpose is to bring to light leading edge concepts and to stimulate further thought and research. No Abstract is required. The text is limited to a maximum of 2500 words of text (not including references).

Authors wishing to submit an unsolicited Viewpoint should send proposals with a brief, 250-word synopsis of the planned Viewpoint to [disabilityandhealthjnl@gmail.com](mailto:disabilityandhealthjnl@gmail.com) for pre-submission approval by the Editors. Authors of approved proposals will receive instructions for submission from the Editorial Office.

**Editorial.** Editorials are solicited by the Editors.

**Letters to the Editor.** Letters discussing a recently published article in the Journal should be received within 4 weeks of the article's publication. The text is limited to a maximum of 500 words of text, one table and/or figure, and 5 references; no abstract is needed. Ensure that the article about which you are writing is included in the list of references. Letters not meeting these specifications are generally not considered.



### Before You Begin

#### Ethics in publishing

For information on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication see <http://www.elsevier.com/publishingethics> and <http://www.elsevier.com/journal-authors/ethics>.

#### Human and animal rights

If the work involves the use of animal or human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried

out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans <http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html>; EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab\\_animals/legislation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/legislation_en.htm); Uniform Requirements for manuscripts submitted to Biomedical journals <http://www.icmje.org>. Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

#### Conflict of Interest

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. See also <http://www.elsevier.com/conflictsofinterest>. Further information and an example of a Conflict of Interest form can be found at: [http://help.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/286/p/7923](http://help.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/286/p/7923).

*Disability and Health Journal* requires all authors to provide full disclosure of any and all relevant financial interests. Further, we require all authors of all types of articles (including letters) to specify the nature of potential conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise. This disclosure includes direct or indirect financial or personal relationships, interests, and affiliations relevant to the subject matter of the manuscript that have occurred over the last two years, or that are expected in the foreseeable future. This disclosure includes, but is not limited to, grants or funding, employment, affiliations, patents (in preparation, filed, or granted), inventions, honoraria, consultancies, royalties, stock options/ownership, or expert testimony. This policy of full disclosure is similar to the policies of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and other such organizations.

Conflict of interest statements must be included on the Title Page at the time of submission for all article types. If an author has no conflicts of interest to declare, this must be explicitly stated. Authors should err on the side of inclusion when in doubt.

The corresponding author will be required to indicate that this information has been fully included in the manuscript at the time of submission. In addition, corresponding authors are required to acknowledge that the conflict of interest disclosures are complete for both themselves and their co-authors, to the best of their knowledge. Omission of relevant information may lead to rejection of the submission at any stage in the process.

Except where explicitly stated otherwise, *Disability and Health Journal* conforms to the guidelines set forth by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). See Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Writing and Editing for Biomedical Publication (February 2006); available at <http://icmje.org>

#### Submission declaration

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 or as an electronic preprint, see <http://www.elsevier.com/postingpolicy>), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is 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 including electronically in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the copyright-holder.

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