



Before Journal Submission, Build Your Own Peer Review Board

MELANIE CHICHESTER
JESSE WOOL

Publishing in a peer-reviewed journal is an excellent way to demonstrate scholarship and leadership in health care. As part of the Institute of Medicine's call for nurses as full partners in health care (Institute of Medicine, 2011), dissemination of knowledge is necessary (Kazer, 2013). Nurses as professionals should be committed to advancing practice through writing in peer-reviewed journals (Sanderson, Carter, & Schuessler, 2012), and being able to communicate by writing is part of professional nursing practice (Bickes & Schim, 2010). According to Witt (2011), nurses should be disseminating knowledge, whether through original research,

applying evidence to practice, problem-solving, educational endeavors, or case reports. However, many nurses hesitate because they doubt their ability to write or they believe that their knowledge is not worth sharing. As a result, few nurses attempt to submit a manuscript to a journal for publication (Dowling, Savrin, & Graham, 2013).

Writing is hard work; writing well is even harder. Writing well enough to submit a manuscript for publication in a journal can seem daunting (Cazzell, 2014). Facing the gauntlet of peer review and potentially several rounds of revisions is enough to intimidate even an

Abstract As professionals and potential leaders in health care, nurses should be committed to advancing practice through publishing in peer-reviewed journals. Asking trusted and experienced colleagues to critique a manuscript before its submission to a journal is a useful strategy to improve the quality of the manuscript and increase its chances of publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nwh.2017.02.004>

Keywords nurse authors | peer review | scholarly publishing | writing



experienced author. Even when a manuscript is returned with a decision of “please revise” instead of being rejected, peer reviewers’

Facing the gauntlet of peer review and potentially several rounds of revisions is enough to intimidate even an experienced author

comments can discourage authors, especially first-time authors, even though the primary purpose of reviewers’ feedback is to help improve the manuscript.

What Is Peer Review?

Peer review is the process of having knowledgeable experts in a given field read and constructively critique a manuscript submitted for publication. The journal’s editor is responsible for determining the editorial content of the journal. The editor, upon receiving a manuscript, considers the overall value, writing, and integrity of a submission. If the editor determines the manuscript to be a potentially good fit for the publication, the editor forwards it to several qualified peer reviewers, who make recommendations regarding issues such as content, clarity, quality

of evidence, organization, references, and style/format. Many journals use blinded peer review, in which reviewers do not know the identity of the authors and vice versa. The reviewers’ task is to assist the editor in deciding if the manuscript is worthy of publication (Felthous & Wettstein, 2014). Peer reviewers may also suggest editorial changes to improve the manuscript. The better the quality of the paper upon submission, the more likely the editor will be to send it on to peer review, and the more likely the peer reviewers will be to recommend it for publication.

Building Your Own Peer Review Board

To increase chances of publication, an option worth considering for novice and experienced authors alike is to ask trusted and experienced colleagues to read a manuscript draft and provide constructive criticism on it before it is submitted to a journal (Witt, 2011). This group is your personal team of professional interdisciplinary colleagues, who may or may not have formal reviewing experience and who will take time to critically assess a manuscript before submission. Although there are no specific criteria that guarantee a thorough review (Felthous & Wettstein, 2014), remember that peer

Melanie Chichester, BSN, RNC-OB, CPLC, is a staff nurse in labor and delivery at Christiana Care Health Services in Newark, DE. Jesse Wool, BSN, RN, is a staff nurse in the pediatric intensive care unit at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in Philadelphia, PA. The authors report no conflicts of interest or relevant financial relationships. Address correspondence to: mchichester@christiana-care.org.



Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5565856>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5565856>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)