



Guidelines for Contributing Authors



Introduction

The *Journal of Renal Nutrition* is the official research publication of the Council on Renal Nutrition of the National Kidney Foundation, Inc. and the International Society of Renal Nutrition and Metabolism. The purpose of *JRN* is to stimulate interest and research in nutrition pertaining to kidney and urologic diseases, hypertension, dialysis therapies and kidney transplantation in children and adults, as well as to publish information concerning renal nutrition research, practice issues and policies. The goal of *JRN* is to publish original communications and research that maintain high standards for the profession and that contribute significantly to the overall advancement of the field.

The *JRN* is a refereed publication. Manuscripts are accepted for review with the understanding that the material has not been previously published except in abstract form, and is not concurrently under review for publication elsewhere. Authors submitting a manuscript to *JRN* must understand that if it is accepted for publication, copyright of the article including the right to reproduce the article in all forms and media, shall be assigned exclusively to the National Kidney Foundation. The Publisher, Elsevier, will not refuse any reasonable request by the author for permission to reproduce any of his or her contributions to the Journal. Information on how to request permission is available on the *JRN* website (<http://www.jrnjournal.org>).

Manuscript Categories

The *Journal of Renal Nutrition* welcomes manuscripts in the following categories: Original Research Articles, Reviews, Clinical/Research Briefs, Practical Aspects Articles, Case Studies, Patient Education Material, Letters to the Editor, and Supplements.

Authors should adhere to the guidelines provided for each type of manuscript.

Original Research: Original research articles are full length reports that cover topics relevant to renal nutrition dietetics or renal nutrition science for both adult and pediatric issues. To be published, the work presented in the manuscript must be original; on occasion, confirmatory studies of timely and important observations will also be acceptable. In addition, other considerations for evaluating the acceptability of a submitted manuscript include its importance, the soundness of the experimental design, the validity of the methods, the appropriateness of the conclusions, and the quality of presentation.

Original Research manuscripts should be organized as follows: title page, support and financial disclosure, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, practical application, acknowledgments, references, tables, and legends and figures. All pages should be numbered consecutively, starting with the title page as page one. Original Research manuscripts, in general, should range between 2,500 and 4,000 words, but are typically about 3,500 words, not including references. Tables and illustrations range from 2 to 6 and should be limited to those most pertinent to the study without duplicating findings in the text. The editor reserves the right to publish exces-

sively long tables as online-only material. Failure to comply with length restrictions may result in a delay in processing the paper.

1. **Introduction:** Clearly state the purpose of the research. Summarize the rationale and background for the study or observation; cite only pertinent references. The "Introduction" should be limited to 1.5 typed manuscript pages.
2. **Methods:** Provide sufficient detail so that the study can be repeated. Describe new methods in detail; report accepted methods briefly with references. Use sub-headings as needed for clarity.

Use of Trade Names: Trade names are to be avoided in defining products whenever possible. If naming a product trade name cannot be avoided, the trade names of other like products should also be mentioned, and first use should be accompanied by the superscript symbol TM or ®, followed in parentheses by the owner's name. If a product trade name is used, it is imperative that the product be described in sufficient detail so that professionally trained readers can understand the nature of the product.

The mention of critical, especially novel, supplies and pieces of equipment ought to be followed, in parenthesis, by name of manufacturer or provider, and on the first mention only, city, state/province, and country (such as Ross Products, Columbus, OH).

Statistics: Describe statistical methods with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the original data to verify the reported results. When possible, quantify findings and present them with appropriate indicators of measurement error or uncertainty (e.g., CIs, SDs, or SEs), even for differences that were not significant. Report the number of observations. Specify any general use computer programs used, including the version number and the manufacturer's name and location. Include general descriptions of statistical methods in the "Methods" section and specific descriptions in each table and figure legend. Indicate whether variables were transformed for analysis. Provide details about what hypotheses were tested, what statistical tests were used, and what the outcome and explanatory variables were (where appropriate). Indicate the level of significance used in tests if different from the conventional 2-sided 5% alpha error and whether or what type of adjustment was made for multiple comparisons. When data are summarized in the "Results" section, specify the statistical methods used to analyze them.

3. **Results:** Present the results in a logical sequence in the text, tables, and figures. Do not duplicate data from tables or figures in the text; emphasize or summarize only important observations. Do not present data from individual subjects except for very compelling reasons.
4. **Discussion:** This section should not exceed 4 typewritten pages. Emphasize concisely the novel and important aspects of the study and the conclusions that follow from them. Do not repeat in detail data or other material presented in the "Introduction" or "Results." Compare results to those previously reported. Link

conclusions with the goals of the study and avoid unqualified statements and conclusions that are not completely supported by the data. Indicate what new information is contributed by the present study.

5. **Practical Application:** This section is written in terms that the practicing clinician can understand and the potential clinical application of the research presented in the paper. Keep the description short, about 2 to 3 sentences, and in a language that the readers can easily understand. Do not make unreasonable claims that cannot be derived from the work described in the paper. If this section is not included with the manuscript submission, the author acknowledges that an Associate Editor of the Journal will write the practical application of the research findings.

Reviews: Comprehensive, quantitative reviews of specific renal nutrition topics of clinical relevance, traditional or meta-analysis, are usually invited contributions; however, letters of interest are welcomed. Reviews should address topics with an extensive body of literature to provide a critical summary of the current evidence and applications. In some cases, review articles may also address an emerging topic with limited literature to better demonstrate the need for more research, but if the focus of the article is on a clinical practice issue, this might better be presented as a "Practical Aspects" article.

Reviews should include: (1) an unstructured abstract (150 maximum word count) that clearly states the purpose of the review, the methodology employed, brief findings and conclusion; (2) introduction and purpose; (3) body, which develops the subject in logical order using appropriate headings and subheadings; (4) conclusions that specify the needs for further research; (5) a detailed and comprehensive list of references; and (6) relevant tables and/or figures. Maximum word count for a review article is 4,500 words, not including references, tables/figures and title page.

Clinical/Research Briefs: Clinical/research briefs are submitted in an abbreviated manuscript format that presents clinical practice experience, preliminary research findings (basic or clinical), or professional observations in a shortened report form. Length usually should not exceed six double-spaced pages, not including references, tables and figures.

Clinical/Research Briefs should be organized as follows: title page, support and financial disclosure, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, practical application, acknowledgments, references, tables, and legends and figures. All pages should be numbered consecutively, starting with the title page as page one.

Practical Aspects: The Journal welcomes manuscripts about a specific renal nutrition topic of clinical relevance for the provider of nutrition or medical care to patients with kidney disease. Contributions to this section are detailed protocols, forms, or other such materials that are successfully utilized for delivery of nutrition care or medical, nursing or psychological care that has a nutrition component.

Material submitted to the Practical Aspects section should include: (1) a title page; (2) an unstructured abstract (150 maximum word count); (3) an introduction and purpose; (4) a body, which develops the subject in logical order using appropriate headings and subheadings; (5) references and, (6) tables and figures, when appropriate.

Case Studies: This detailed scenario should illustrate a patient care situation that benefited from nutrition intervention. Typically, it should consist of a brief clinical and nutrition history, and a detailed nutrition intervention plan with discussion of recommendations focused on practical application. Appropriate laboratory values, anthropometric measurements, and clinical parameters should be provided.

Patient Education*: This section provides renal dietitians with a convenient, easy-to-read, educational handout for pa-

tient distribution. Patient education materials are published online only, although they are referenced in the Table of Contents of the print edition. Submissions for Patient Education should be accompanied by an introduction explaining the rationale for the development of the material and, when appropriate, how it should be used. Text should be clear and concise and illustrations should be contained on two pages with expanded type.

Letters to the Editor: Letters should be restricted to scientific commentary about materials published in *JRN* or to topics of general interest to professionals working in the field of renal nutrition science and dietetics. Letters must be double-spaced, should include a title page, should have no more than 10 references, and should not exceed 750 words. All letters will be subject to editorial review and decision before acceptance. The *JRN* does not accept letters that are unrelated to a specific, recently published article; that contain extensive unpublished data; or that engage in personal slander or invective.

Supplements: The *JRN* publishes funded supplements after approval and review by the Editorial Office. Initial inquiries and proposals for supplements should be directed to Jerrilynn D. Burrowes, Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Renal Nutrition* at jerrilynn.burrowes@liu.edu.

Proceedings Papers: Manuscript submissions from Proceedings must include a 150 word abstract, a main body of about 2,000 words, one figure and no more than 20 references. (If the figure is not possible, then the submission must have one table. In rare circumstances, up to 2 figures may be considered following discussion with the editors. Pure text without a figure should be avoided.)

*NOTE: *Patient Education* and *Product Updates* are accepted for publication solely on the *JRN* website. They will be listed in the printed table of contents and indexed in MEDLINE. There are no charges for color figures; however, they will be subject to the same copyright laws as the printed edition.



Before You Begin

Ethics in publishing

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For subscription articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' and the copyright will be assigned exclusively to the National Kidney Foundation, Inc., including the right to reproduce the article in all forms and media (for more information on this and copyright, see <http://www.elsevier.com/copyright>). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

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