

Information for authors

The Editors and the Editorial Board of the *Australian and New Zealand Continence Journal* have specified guidelines for prospective authors to follow when compiling an article they wish to submit to the journal.

Terms of submission

The editors accept submissions in the form of research findings, clinical papers, case studies, reports, review articles, letters and product appraisals. Each submission is evaluated on its timeliness, relevance, accuracy, clarity and applicability to the journal. Submissions will be accepted from any country but must be written in English. Submissions to the journal must be original and unpublished. Submissions must not be under consideration elsewhere. The ANZCJ Editorial Office will check each submission using plagiarism detection software to verify content is original and not previously published. Accompanying each submission must be a competing interest statement (see form on CFA website and Cambridge Media website). Once a paper is accepted for publication, all authors must sign the author statement and copyright assignment form which will be provided by the production editor. Once it is published, the article and its illustrations become the property of the journal, unless rights are reserved before publication.

All work is sub-edited to journal style. The editors reserve the right to modify the style and length of any article submitted, so that it conforms to journal format. Major changes to an article will be referred to the author for approval prior to publication. The *Australian and New Zealand Continence Journal* provides assistance to first time authors and may be contacted by email.

Authorship

All listed authors should have made a substantial contribution to the manuscript and may be required to indicate their contribution. Participation solely in the acquisition of funding, the collection of data or supervision of such does not justify authorship and such contributions should be listed in acknowledgements which will be printed under the author details. All participating authors must be acknowledged as such; proof of authorship may be requested. The first-named author is responsible for ensuring that any other authors have seen and approved the manuscript and are fully conversant with its contents. It is the responsibility of the author to obtain written permission from a copyright holder to reproduce copyrighted work; a copy of that permission must be provided to the journal prior to publication and a full citation of the source must be provided.

Conflict of interest: It is the responsibility of the submitting author to disclose to the Editor any significant financial or other interests they may have pertaining to their manuscript. Conflicts of interest should be disclosed using the *Australian and New Zealand Continence Journal* author competing interests form. If an interest exists, publication of that interest is at the Editor's discretion.

Ethics

Investigations in human and animal subjects must conform to accepted ethical standards. Authors must provide a statement within the text that the research protocol was approved by a suitably constituted ethics committee of the institution within which the work was carried out and that it conforms to the Statement on Human Experimentation or the Statement on Animal Experimentation by the NH&MRC.

Manuscript type

The *Australian and New Zealand Continence Journal* welcomes original research articles for peer review and general articles regarding the achievements of people working in the disciplines pertaining to the management of incontinence, clinical issue updates, book reviews and general project information.

Discussion: Presentation of information from more than one viewpoint (for example, for and against) and usually ending with a recommendation or opinion based on the evidence presented.

Literature review: Narrative — describes and evaluates the current knowledge of a subject, identifies gaps or inconsistencies and includes critical evaluation with recommendations for future research. Systematic — describes planned analysis and evaluation of all available research studies on a particular clinical issue, conducted in accordance with scientific principles and may include recommendations for future research.

Research report: Presentation of study results in an ordered fashion, based on common practice. Research reports are expected to follow the Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals, as published by the International Council of Science Journal Editors www.icmje.org.

Case study: Combination of recount (retelling of events as they occurred) and information report (classification and description of something). Can be presented in different ways to give a cohesive account.

Exposition (including letter to the Editor): Putting forward of a particular viewpoint, justification of a particular argument.

Narrative: An informative account of a meeting or conference, or a review of a book, journal article or relevant website.

Preparation of manuscripts

Manuscripts are to be no more than 4000 words and include an abstract of no more than 250 words. Manuscripts should be created in a Word document using minimal formatting and typed double spaced in 12 point Times Roman font. Include total word count and up to five keywords. Include title of work on the abstract page and first page of introduction. In the introduction, include key points on what is already known on the topic and what your manuscript contributes. Define abbreviations and acronyms on first mention in the text.

Tables are to be presented on separate pages, one per page. Tables should be clearly typed, showing columns and lines.

Number tables consecutively using Arabic numerals in the order of their first citation in the text and supply a brief title for each. Place explanatory matter in a legend under the table, not in the heading. Explain in the legend all non-standard abbreviations used in each table.

Photographs and figures may be included in the submission and should be supplied in a graphic format such as jpeg at a resolution of 300 dpi. Illustrations and figures must be clear, well-drawn and large enough to be legible when reproduced. The title and legend for figures should be on a separate page after the references. Each figure must include its place, its number and the orientation of figure. Patients or other individual subjects should not be identifiable from photos unless they have given written consent for their identity to be disclosed; this must be supplied.

Referencing guidelines

The referencing format is based on the Vancouver style, the main feature of which is the use of numbers at the point of reference so as not to interfere with the flow of words. Each number corresponds to a single reference provided in the reference list at the end and, once assigned a number, a reference retains that number throughout the text, even if cited more than once. If more than one work is quoted in a reference, each work must be assigned a number. At any point in the text, the reference may be one¹ or several²⁻⁴ numbers. Following are some examples of references from different sources:

Journal: A complete journal reference includes: name(s) of author(s), title of article, journal name, year of publication, volume and edition number and inclusive page numbers.

1. Hyer W & Fell JM. Screening for familial adenomatous polyposis. *Arch Dis Child* 2001; 8:377–381.

Book: A complete reference to a book includes name(s) of author(s) or editor(s), book title, edition number, name of publisher, place of publication, year of publication, specific page numbers and internet reference if applicable.

2. Blaxter PS & Farnsworth TP. Social health and class inequalities. In: Carter C, Peel JR, eds. *Equalities and Inequalities in Health*. 2nd edn. London: Academic Press, 1976, pp. 165–78.

Websites and electronic references:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Chronic diseases and associated risk factors [document on the internet]. Canberra: The Institute, 2004 [updated 23 June 2005]. Available at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/cdarf/index.cfm>. Retrieved 12 February 2009.

It is the author's responsibility to ensure that all references are correct. Please double check all citations with an electronic database to ensure accuracy in the reference list. Manuscripts submitted with multiple errors will be returned for correction before being accepted for peer review.

Submission of manuscripts

The *Australian and New Zealand Continence Journal*, in conjunction with Cambridge Publishing, now uses the world's leading manuscript management system — ScholarOne. Submission of manuscripts for peer review will only be accepted via this online program. Reports and news can still be submitted to the production editor by email.

All tables, figures and photographs, as well as the main document and title page, are to be uploaded separately. Please ensure image files are uploaded as jpegs and are a MINIMUM of 500kb and no larger than 2mb in size. The manuscript may be accompanied by a Word document with tables, figures and photographs embedded so as to show the referred positions of these. This separate file can be uploaded at step 4 as a cover letter.

To submit manuscripts, go to <http://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/anzcj> and log into your Author Centre. Links to the login page can be found on the ANZCJ home page on Cambridge Publishing's website www.cambridgepublishing.com.au/publications/australian-and-new-zealand-continence-journal.aspx (click on 'Submit an Article') where a quick guide can be downloaded in 'Author Guidelines'. The CFA website www.continence.org.au/pages/continence-journal.html also has the links.

To create an account when using the system for the first time, click on 'Register here' under 'New User?' in the middle right of the screen, or on 'Create Account' in the top right-hand side of the screen. Please enter as much information as possible when creating an account.

Once in the system, the steps to submit an article are:

- Step 1: Manuscript type, title and abstract.
- Step 2: Keywords - at least two are required, up to five allowed.
- Step 3: Add co-author and edit your details (if necessary).
- Step 4: Manuscript information and questions on funding, ethics, conflict of interest and copyright.
- Step 5: Upload files.
- Step 6: Review and submit.

The ANZCJ ScholarOne website has comprehensive guidelines and online tutorials to assist in using the system. Click on the orange 'Get Help Now' in the top right hand corner. A PDF of the Author Quick Start Guide can be downloaded after choosing 'Author' as your role.

Peer-review process

All manuscripts are initially reviewed by the Editorial committee and those deemed unsuitable (insufficient originality, serious scientific or methodological flaws, or a message that is too specialised or of limited interest to the journal readership) are returned to the author(s), usually within four weeks. If the manuscript does not conform to the submission guidelines, the author will be asked to amend it prior to peer review.

All manuscripts are reviewed by content and writing peers for relevance, construction, flow, style and grammar. This process can take eight weeks. Reviewers spend considerable time in reviewing the manuscripts and providing feedback to the authors. The length of time of the publication process may vary and depends on the quality of the work submitted. Several revisions may be required to bring the manuscript to a standard acceptable for publication. The Editorial team undertake the final review and may have different questions for the author/s to consider. Proofs of articles about to be published will be sent in PDF format to the corresponding author for review. The final decision about publication is made by the Editor.