**Guidelines for Authors (updated June 2019)**

*Nursing for Women's Health* (*NWH*) is the official practice journal of AWHONN. The mission of the journal is to improve outcomes for women and newborns through the dissemination of clinical scholarship. Manuscripts most likely to be accepted are those with a robust discussion of implications for clinical practice. Our readers want to apply the knowledge to their daily practice.

Although not required, authors may send a submission query addressed to Editor Mary C. Brucker, PhD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN, at nwh@awhonn.org. For additional information about *NWH* visit the website, e-mail nwh@awhonn.org, or call 202-261-1467.

**ONLINE SUBMISSION & PEER REVIEW**
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Authors are expected to adhere to ethical standards for publishing as outlined in Elsevier's ethics policy. Suspicions of plagiarism or other ethical breaches will be handled in accordance with guidelines from the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

**ARTICLE CATEGORIES**
**Clinical Evaluation & Improvement**. Clinically focused original research, reports of quality improvement, program evaluation, and evidence-based practice projects with implications beyond the study site. Manuscripts in this category must include a structured abstract of no more than 300 words using the following headings:
- Objective
- Design
- Setting/Local Problem
- Participants
- Intervention/Measurements
- Results
- Conclusion

Reports of Quality Improvement (QI) projects must follow the Standards for Quality Improvement Reporting Excellence (SQUIRE) guidelines and outline.

**Reviews**. Literature reviews, systematic reviews, and integrative reviews with specific implications for clinical practice. Depending on the type of article being submitted, manuscripts in this category are accompanied by either:
a. An unstructured abstract of no more than 125 words that is factual and provides the main points of the manuscript for literature reviews, or
b. A structured abstract for systematic and integrative reviews of no more than 300 words using the following headings:

- Objective
- Data Sources
- Study Selection
- Data Extraction
- Data Synthesis
- Conclusion

Reports of systematic reviews must follow the Preferred Reporting Items of Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. PRISMA can be applied to reviews of randomized trials and other types of research and includes a checklist and flow diagram. We also recommend authors of systematic reviews read the guidance contained in Lowe (2009).

For reviews with tables summarizing studies reviewed, see section on "Tables" below for more guidance.

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Personal essays written from the first person point of view that describe pivotal or transformational experiences with resonance for our readership. Suggested word count of no more than 1,000 words. Essays typically do not include references.

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Authors must disclose any commercial interest they have in the subject of their work as well as the source of any financial or material support. Every author listed on a manuscript must complete a Copyright Transfer & Author Disclosure Form that will be uploaded with the manuscript files in the Editorial Manager system.

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- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Participation that does not qualify for authorship includes data gathering, provision of financial or other support, or review of a preliminary draft. When a large, multi-center group has conducted the work, the group should identify the individuals who accept direct responsibility for the manuscript.

The maximum number of authors usually permitted is six on research manuscripts and four on all other types of manuscripts. If more than these numbers of authors are desired, specific information explaining the role of each author should be included in a cover letter.

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Double-space all pages, including the abstract, text, references, tables, and legends. Use 12-point font and uniform margins of 1" at the top, bottom, right, and left. Do not right justify lines. Do not divide words at the end of a line.

Number pages consecutively. Include a shortened version of the title at the top of each page to identify the manuscript. The running head must not contain any author names or initials. In the left margin, consecutively number each line of text.

The average article in *NWH* is 15 to 18 manuscript pages, plus references, tables, illustrations, and callouts. Review articles can be longer than 18 pages if needed.

Refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (*APA*), sixth edition, for grammar, punctuation, and style; *Webster's Eleventh Collegiate Dictionary* for spelling of nontechnical words; *Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary* for spelling of medical terms; and the *APA Manual* for guidelines on statistical reporting.

Use woman-centered language, such as *woman* instead of *patient*, and *birth* instead of *delivery*. Use generic names of all drugs and products. Report physical measures in International System of Units (SI) units. For examples of conversion to SI equivalents, refer to the *APA Manual*. When a term such as height is noted, both the metric and imperial systems should be included.

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**Keywords**. Submit 3 to 10 keywords with the abstract for use in indexing the article. See the MeSH on Demand tool provided by the U.S. National Library of Medicine for assistance.

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**Clinical Implications (Short Bulleted List)**. Provide a list of three to five brief bulleted points that concisely summarize and encapsulate for readers the main clinical takeaways of your article.

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Tables of studies included in systematic reviews should use the following column headings: Author/Date, Participants, Methods, Interventions, Outcomes. Information included for each study should be presented in a

standardized manner and be as succinct as possible.

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—Text (begins on page 3).
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**REFERENCES**
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