



Journal of
Chiropractic Medicine

Journal of Chiropractic Medicine

Policies and Instructions for Authors

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Contents

ABOUT THE JOURNAL.....	6
Aims and Scope	6
Indexing	6
Contact Information	6
Journal Information.....	6
JOURNAL POLICIES.....	7
Editorial Policy and Publication Ethics.....	7
Editorial Freedom	7
Editorial Board	8
Society and Sponsors	8
Journal Advertising Policy	8
Subscriptions.....	8
Authorship	8
Author Identifiers.....	9
Changes in Authorship.....	9
Corresponding Author.....	9
Contributorship.....	10
Acknowledgments.....	10
Funding Sources.....	10
Registration.....	10
Copyright	11
Human Subjects.....	11
Human Subject Anonymity and Consent	11
Animal studies	11
Author Competing Interests	12
Editorial Staff and Peer Reviewer Competing Interests	12
Permissions for Content Use and Reuse.....	12
Preprint and Prepublication.....	12

Secondary Publication	13
Allegations of research, publication, and review misconduct	13
Duplicate Submission	13
Redundant or Duplicate Publication	13
Non-Compliance With Author Instructions	14
Retraction	14
EDITORIAL PROCESS	14
Pre-Peer Review and Internal Review.....	14
Peer Reviewer Selection.....	14
Review Process	15
Editorial Decisions.....	15
Revision.....	15
Acceptance and Proofs	16
Rejection	16
Criteria for Editorial Decisions	17
Manuscript Transfer	17
Article Processing Charges.....	17
Open Access.....	18
Journal Rights and Permissions	18
Corrections.....	19
INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS AND MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES	19
Types of Submissions Considered	19
Original Research.....	19
Literature Reviews.....	20
Case Reports	20
Descriptive Reports.....	20
Protocols.....	21
Correspondence	21
Editorials	21

Conference Proceedings	21
Types of Submissions Not Considered	21
MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION	21
Editorial Policies	21
Manuscript Template	22
Cover Letter	22
General Formatting and Journal Style	22
Manuscript Organization: Original Research and Literature Reviews.....	23
Title.....	23
Structured Abstract	23
Keywords.....	23
Registration	23
Introduction.....	24
Methods	24
Results.....	25
Discussion	25
Future Studies	25
Strengths.....	25
Limitations	25
Conclusions	25
Supplementary Files	25
Declarations	26
Acknowledgments	26
Funding.....	26
Competing Interests.....	26
Author Names.....	27
Affiliations	27
Contributorship	27
Data Availability	27

Artificial Intelligence in Scientific Writing	28
Disclaimers	28
Tables	28
Figures.....	29
References.....	31
Terminology	31
Units of Measurement.....	32
Abbreviations and Symbols	32
Submission	32
Items to Accompany Manuscript Submissions	32

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

Aims and Scope

The *Journal of Chiropractic Medicine (JCM)* advances conservative health care by publishing clinically relevant, peer-reviewed research and reviews that support evidence-informed patient care. The journal publishes original, practical scientific information for health professionals across the full scope of clinical practice, including examination and diagnosis, differential diagnosis, diagnostic imaging, treatment, rehabilitation, prevention and health promotion, sports medicine, neurology, public health, and other conservative approaches to patient care.

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Publication standards: Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and World Association of Medical Editors (WAME).

Journal style: AMA manual of style: A guide for authors and editors. 11th edition (2020)

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JOURNAL POLICIES

Editorial Policy and Publication Ethics

The Journal of Chiropractic Medicine (Journal) adheres to high ethical standards for publication. The *Journal* follows the standards as set forth in the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE, <https://icmje.org/>), policies established by the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME, <https://www.wame.org/>), and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE, <https://publicationethics.org/>). Publication malpractice is managed using a fair and timely process as recommended by the aforementioned organizations, depending on the infraction. Policies and processes are described in full as stated in this document.

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Acknowledgments

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Comments by	Response	Location or line numbers of revisions
Editor		
The figure callout for Figure 1 is missing. Please include it.	Thank you for your comment. We have included Figure 1 callout.	Line 101
Reviewer 1		

Methods: Page 5, Line 141: The authors take care to mention the exclusion of some items, but do not mention the exclusion of others until later in the discussion. Recommend adding a similar exclusion detail to the methods section.	Thank you for pointing this out. We have moved all exclusion concepts to the methods section.	Lines 143 to 148
Codes are mentioned but it is not clear what this means. Please add a brief definition on "coding score" (line 385)	Thank you for bringing this to our attention. We agree that the term "coding score" was confusing. We have clarified the term "codes" and included a referenced definition.	Lines 390 to 395

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- Supporting the editorial staff and managing journal operations.
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If an error has been made by *Journal* staff that results in a substantive meaning change, an erratum will be published in a timely manner with no additional charge to the author. If an error has been made by the author, a correction notice will be published in a timely manner, with an additional charge to the author to cover all publication costs of the correction notice.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS AND MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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The *Journal* welcomes high-quality manuscripts that add new knowledge to the field of clinical practice. The *Journal* will consider the following research categories:

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- 3500 words maximum: word count does not include abstract, figure/table titles/legends, or references. 4 tables maximum, 4 figures maximum.
- Quantitative research studies: These experimental or observational studies typically use deductive processes to test hypotheses and results are usually evidenced by the production of data. Examples include, but are not limited to, experimental

studies, quasi-experimental work, correlational studies, survey research, and quality improvement studies.

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- Mixed-methods studies and other original research study designs.
- The journal does not publish study protocols.

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- Literature reviews include the synthesis and assessment of current knowledge of a focused subject. Examples include systematic reviews, scoping reviews, and other structured reviews. Studies must report reproducible methods.

Case Reports

- 3500 words maximum, word count does not include abstract, figure/table titles/legends, or references. 4 tables maximum, 4 figures maximum
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Descriptive Reports

- 3500 words maximum, word count does not include abstract, figure/table titles/legends, or references. 4 tables maximum, 4 figures maximum
- Descriptive reports describe an event or situation, the resulting outcomes, and what new information can be learned. These reports may use quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods and may be from organizational, academic, instructional, programmatic, or other educational perspectives. Please see the following paper for more information <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.echu.2022.06.001>

Protocols

- 3500 words maximum, word count does not include abstract, figure/table titles/legends, or references. 4 tables maximum, 4 figures maximum
- Protocol manuscripts must follow currently accepted reporting guidelines for the study design.

Correspondence

- 500 words maximum. 10 references maximum
- The *Journal* will consider communications that add to, clarify, or discuss a deficiency in a paper published recently (within 3 months) in the *Journal*. Letters will be published as deemed relevant by the Editor. Authors of the paper being critiqued will be afforded a counter-response. The *Journal* does not publish letters that are criticisms of papers or policies in other journals.

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- Research designs of the above, but the topic is outside the scope of the journal
- Book reviews
- Uninvited editorials or commentaries

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Editorial Policies

Before preparing a manuscript for submission, all authors must read and be familiar with the *Journal's* Editorial Policies and Instructions for Authors.

Manuscript Template

Authors must use the *Journal's* manuscript template to submit their manuscript file. This will help ensure that required content is present, and it will also speed up the peer review and production process if the manuscript is accepted. The manuscript template for original research and literature reviews may be found here

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Cover Letter

A cover letter is required with the submission materials and must include the following.

- Date of submission and *Journal* name.
- Manuscript title and type of study.
- Summary and significance of the study. The significance and broader implications of the work for the scientific community and the *Journal's* readership.
- A clear explanation of why your manuscript is a good fit for the *Journal's* aim and scope.
- A declaration that all authors have approved the manuscript and agree to submit it to the *Journal*.
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Manuscripts for Original Research and Literature Reviews must follow the sections in the manuscript template: Title, Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Future Studies, Strengths, Limitations, Conclusion, Acknowledgements, Funding, Competing Interests, Availability of Data, Artificial Intelligence, Supplementary File, Tables, Figure titles, and References. Some manuscripts may need additional subheadings within each section to clarify content. Please refer to the manuscript template file for specific instructions for each section of the manuscript.

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Title

The title should be a maximum of 25 words. Ensure the title reflects the core elements of the study and include the study design in the title. Do not phrase as a question or conclusion. Avoid the use of “catchy” or novel titles with questionable relevance to the contents or dramatic titles.

Structured Abstract

The structured abstract should be no more than 250 words. For Original Research and Literature Reviews, structured abstracts should consist of 4 paragraphs, labeled: Objective, Methods, Results, and Conclusions and follow standard reporting guidelines for the study design. Letters to the editor should not have an abstract.

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Provide no more than 5 key indexing terms that will assist indexers in cross-indexing your manuscript. These terms must come from the Index Medicus Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh>.

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Clearly state the purpose of the study. Summarize the rationale for the study or observation. Give only pertinent references and do not review the subject extensively; the introduction should serve only to introduce what was done and why it was done. State the compelling gap in the literature that your paper fills. State the specific purpose, research objective, or hypothesis tested by the study (typically found at the end of the introduction section).

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Emphasize or summarize only important observations and do not discuss findings in the results section.

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The discussion should emphasize the important aspects of the study and include a summary that follows from these observations. Do not repeat data presented in the Results section and do not include information or work that is not directly relevant to the study. State new hypotheses when indicated but clearly label them as such. Statements that are unsupported, that generalize, or that over-interpret the findings must not be included. All statements made as fact require a supporting reference. Recommendations for further study and future research should be placed in the discussion section, not the conclusion.

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Include a short description of what future studies are recommended based on the findings of the current study.

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Include a short description of the strengths of the study.

Limitations

Limitations to the study, including various biases, must be clearly stated and explained how each is a limitation to the study or how each limits the use or interpretation of the findings.

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Clearly state in one to two paragraphs the major findings of the study. The principal conclusions must be directly linked to the study's goals. Do not include in the conclusions unqualified statements that not supported by the study data Do not include information that belongs in the discussion section, such as author viewpoints or suggestions for future research.

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Supplementary files may include additional information that supports the manuscript. Content that belongs in Supplementary files includes flow diagrams such as CONSORT and PRISMA, search strings for literature reviews, large data sets such as tables that flow

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Use only standard abbreviations for units of measurement, statistical terms, biological references, journal names, etc. Do not use abbreviations in article titles and avoid them in abstracts. The full term should precede its abbreviation for the first use in the manuscript, unless it is a standard unit of measurement. For standard abbreviations, consult the following American Medical Association Manual of Style.

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