

Journal of Nursing Investigation
Instructions to Authors

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1. Aims and Scope

Journal of Nursing Investigation (JNI) is an official peer-reviewed and fully open-access journal of the Tokushima University Faculty of Medicine. The journal publishes Research Article, Review, Case Report, Practice Report and Letter to the Editor. JNI aims broadly international both in its perspective and the country of origin of the authors it publishes. The journal’s mission, through the publication of finding from high-quality research, is to contribute to the improvement of global medical standards. JNI accepts articles related to the development and advancement of nursing science and its allied fields. All articles receive a full and extensive peer review by recognized experts from the subject of research field. The journal is published semiannually (June and December).

2. Article Types

JNI publishes a variety of different article types. Details on manuscript preparation are provided below.

Article Type	Description	Abstract	Maximum *1
Research Article	Research articles are scientific reports that present new findings derived from original experimental or clinical research. They contribute to the development of nursing by logically presenting findings of academic value and implications for practice.	- 300 words - Structured (Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusions)	- 5,000 words - Tables: fewer than 5 - Figures: fewer than 6
Review	Critical evaluations of materials about current research that has already been published by organizing, integrating and evaluating previously published material.	- 300 words	- 6,000 words - Tables: fewer than 8 - Figures: fewer than 10
Case Report	Provides new ideas in nursing by providing a detailed report on nursing in a case.	- 300 words	- 2,000 words - Tables: fewer than 3 - Figures: fewer than 4
Practice Report	Results of practice on a technical problem, where the means or results obtained are expected to have a large ripple effect.	-300 words	- 1,500 words - Tables: fewer than 3 - Figures: fewer than 8
Letter to the Editor	Letters to the Editor are brief, constructive commentaries that can be submitted in response to a recently published article in the journal.	Not required	- 500 words - No figure or table

*1 Word limit includes main body of the manuscript only (not including Title page, Abstract, Figure legends, Tables and References).

3. Manuscript Preparation

Information provided here on manuscript preparation and formatting is based, in part, on the [“Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals”](#) as published by the ICMJE. For any information that is not mentioned in this guideline, authors should refer to the [ICMJE Recommendations](#).

Manuscripts not meeting these requirements WILL BE RETURNED for technical revision prior to peer review.

Language-editing before Submission

If authors are non-native speakers of English, the manuscript must be edited by a professional medical English editor.

Checklists

Authors are required to use the following checklists prior to submission:

- [Submission Checklist](#)
- [References Checklist](#)

Note: These checklists are only for preparation purpose. Do not be submit alongside your manuscript.

General Formatting

- Language: American English
- Font Size: 12
- Font type: Times
- Spacing: Double-spaced
- Line Numbers: Required
- Page numbers: Required

Required Submission Files and Format

Please prepare and upload the following files **in the specified order** and format:

- **Title Page** — *Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx)*
- **Main Document** (*combined file*) — *Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx)*
This file should include the following sections in order:
 - Abstract and Keywords
 - Main Text
 - References
- **Figures** — *Common image file formats (e.g., .jpg, .png, .tiff)*
- **Tables and Footnotes** — *Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) or Excel (.xls/.xlsx)*
Image formats are not accepted.

Title Page Requirements

The title page should include the following information:

1. **Article Title:** Concise and informative; avoid abbreviations; include searchable terms.
2. **Manuscript Type:** Specify the type (e.g., Original Article, Review, etc.).
3. **Running Title:** Max 40 characters.
4. **Authors:** Full names, and institutional affiliation numbers.
5. **Affiliations:** Institutional name, city, and country for each author.
6. **Corresponding Author:** Name, full postal address, phone number, and e-mail address.
7. **Author Contributions:** Briefly describe each author's role (refer to ICMJE guidelines).
8. **Acknowledgements:** Acknowledge individuals or institutions that contributed.
9. **Conflicts of Interest:** Declare any potential conflicts for all authors.
10. **Financial Support:** List all sources of funding.
11. **Ethical Approval:** Provide the name of the approving institution. If waived or not required, state the reason.
12. **Consent for Publication:** Confirm informed consent was obtained. If waived or not required, state the reason.
13. **Word Count:** Indicate word count of the main text (excluding abstract, references, etc.).

14. **Figures and Tables:** Indicate the total number included.

Main Text Structure

For original research articles, the main text should follow the standard IMRaD structure:

- **Introduction:** Brief background, rationale, and objective of the study. Avoid extensive literature review.
- **Materials and Methods:** Provide sufficient detail for replication. Include study design, setting, participant selection, inclusion/exclusion criteria, data collection, and statistical methods. For clinical studies, state ethical approval and informed consent. Follow appropriate reporting guidelines (e.g., CONSORT, STROBE).
- **Results:** Present findings clearly and logically. Avoid interpretation. Use tables/figures as needed but do not duplicate data. Present numerical results with appropriate units and significant figures. When statistical analyses are performed, report exact p -values and confidence intervals (CIs), as appropriate. Example: Clearly state the sample size (n) and descriptive statistics (e.g., mean \pm SD). Specify the statistical tests used, and use italics for statistical symbols such as p , t , and R^2 .
- **Discussion:** Interpret findings in the context of existing literature. Discuss implications, limitations, and areas for future research. Do not repeat results.
- **Conclusion (if applicable):** Provide a concise summary of key findings and their relevance.

Abstract and Keywords

- **Abstract:** Abstracts must be clear, concise, and understandable without reference to the main text. They should not exceed 300 words and must be presented as a single paragraph. Abstracts of Original Articles should be structured (Objectives, Methods, Results, and Conclusions).
- **Keywords:** Provide **3–5 relevant keywords** that reflect the content of the article. Use terms from [MeSH](#) (Medical Subject Headings) list from Medline/ Index Medicus, whenever possible.

References

- The authors are responsible for the accuracy of their references.
- Including AI-generated material as the primary source in the reference is not allowed.
- References should be made to published articles rather than to abstracts whenever possible.
- The References section should follow immediately after the conclusion of the main text under the heading "References".
- A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) is required for every reference whenever one is available.
- References should be prepared according to the latest edition of the [APA Style](#).

Examples:

Journal article

Grady, J. S., Her, M., Moreno, G., Perez, C., & Yelinek, J. (2019). Emotions in storybooks: A comparison of storybooks that represent ethnic and racial groups in the United States. *Psychology of Popular Media Culture*, 8(3), 207–217. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ppm0000185>

Entire book

Jackson, L. M. (2019). *The psychology of prejudice: From attitudes to social action (2nd ed.)*. American Psychological Association. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000168-000>

Book chapter

Aron, L., Botella, M., & Lubart, T. (2019). Culinary arts: Talent and their development. In R. F. Subotnik, P. Olszewski-Kubilius, & F. C. Worrell (Eds.), *The psychology of high performance: Developing human potential into domain-specific talent* (pp. 345–359). American Psychological Association. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000120-016>

For reference styles pertaining to other media formats or further details, please refer to [Detailed guide and examples](#).

Units of Measurement

- All measurements should follow the International System of Units (SI).
- Length, height, weight, and volume: metric units (meter, kilogram, or liter) or their decimal multiples.
- Temperatures: Celsius.
- Blood pressures: millimeters of mercury.
- Leave one space between each number and unit. except for °C and %.
- Use a capital letter "L" for liter in the Text, Figures, and Tables (e.g., g/dL, mg/dL, IU/L, and mEq/L).

Abbreviations

- Do not include the abbreviations in the title except for gene names or in commonly used abbreviations.
- Define abbreviations at their first appearance in the text and in each Table and Figure and use the abbreviations consistently thereafter.

Names of Drugs, Devices, and Other Products

Use descriptive name. Do not use the specific brand names of drugs, devices, and other products and services, unless it is essential to the discussion.

Use of Copyrighted Materials

- If any copyrighted or previously published material, edited or otherwise, are used in the manuscript:
- It is the author's responsibility to obtain the permission from the copyright owner(s) prior to making a submission.
- The authors must cite the source and indicate the permission to use such materials in the corresponding
- Figure or Table caption, as required by the copyright owner(s).
- Authors must submit permissions letters from the copyright owner(s) when submitting the manuscript.

Tables and Figures

Tables and Figures should be placed in the manuscript at the point of their first citation. Titles, captions and legends should be provided as notes below the corresponding tables or figures. Tables should be submitted in an editable format and not embedded as images.

For details on table and figure preparation, please refer to the [Table and Figure Setup](#) section of the APA Style Guide.

Clinical Trials

In accordance with [ICMJE's policy](#) on trial registration, JN1 requires all clinical trials to be registered with a public trials registry before the time of first patient enrollment.

All clinical trials must be registered with databases that are accessible to the public at no charge, open to all prospective registrants, managed by a not-for-profit organization, have a mechanism to ensure the validity of the registration data, and are electronically searchable.

Submitted manuscripts must include the unique registration number in the abstract as evidence of registration. The name of the registration database must also be provided.

The journal accepts registration from the following list of registries as well as others listed at ICMJE site:

- [Clinical Trials](#)
- [Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry](#)
- [ISRCTN Register](#)
- [Netherlands Trial Register](#)
- [UMIN Clinical Trials Registry](#)
- [EudraCT](#)

Reporting Guidelines

Authors must follow the EQUATOR Network's reporting guidelines appropriate to their study type, such as:

- **CONSORT** for randomized trials
- **STROBE** for observational studies
- **PRISMA** for systematic reviews and meta-analyses
- **CARE** for case reports
- **STARD** for diagnostic accuracy studies
- **SAGER** for sex and gender reporting

For a comprehensive list, visit: <https://www.equator-network.org>

Authors must use the appropriate reporting guideline not only to complete the checklist but also to revise their manuscript accordingly. The checklist is intended as a tool to improve the completeness, clarity, and transparency of reporting. Proper adherence will enhance the quality of the manuscript and may increase its chances of acceptance.

4. Data Sharing

JNI encourages authors of manuscripts reporting clinical trials to share their de-identified research data, including but not limited to: raw or processed data, software, algorithms, protocols, methods, materials, study protocols, statistical analysis plans, informed consent forms, clinical study reports, and analytic code.

In accordance with ICMJE requirements, all clinical trial reports must include a data sharing statement linked to the trial registration. The statement should specify:

- Types of data available
- Supporting documents (e.g., protocol, statistical analysis plan, consent form, report, code)
- Availability period
- Intended recipients of the data
- Types of analyses for which data may be shared
- Method for requesting access

The data sharing statement will be published with the article.

5. Online Manuscript Submission

Manuscripts may only be submitted electronically via the journal's Editorial Manager system:

<https://www.editorialmanager.com/jni/>. Upon completion of submission process a confirmation e-mail will be sent to all listed authors.

Upon submission, the manuscript will be automatically checked for plagiarism.

6. Peer Review Process

Articles submitted to JNl are subject to a single-anonymized peer review process. This means the identities of the peer reviewers remain anonymous but the authors' identities are known to the reviewers. Every manuscript sent for full peer review will receive a fair, comprehensive and unbiased critical assessment

Peer Review Process

1. Manuscript Submission

Authors submit a manuscript via the online submission system, and this will receive a unique identification number.

2. Technical Checks

The Editorial Office checks if the manuscript's formatting and style is in accordance with the [Instructions to Authors](#).

3. Editor Assignment

An Associate Editor is assigned once the technical check has been completed. If the Associate Editor decides not to send the manuscript for peer review, the author will be notified of the rejection by email. If the manuscript is sent for full peer review, the Associate Editor will be responsible for selecting reviewers and evaluating the manuscript.

4. Reviewer Assignment

The Associate Editor selects, in general, two independent external reviewers who are experts in the relevant field to evaluate the manuscript.

5. Peer Review

Reviewers, who agreed to review the manuscript, submit their review comments to the Associate Editor.

6. Recommendation

The Associate Editor reviews the reviewers' reports and submits the review comments to the Editor-in-Chief.

7. Decision

The Editor-in-Chief reviews the reviewers' and the Associate Editors' reports and makes a final decision.

8. Notification to Authors

Authors are notified of the decision, along with the reviewer's feedback.

9. Revision and Resubmission

If the authors are given the opportunity to revise the paper, they revise the paper according to the review comments and resubmits. The paper then goes through the same process above, but the Editor-in-Chief may choose to accept the paper without further review by the reviewers.

JNl adheres to [Committee on Publication Ethics' Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers](#). Reviewers are not allowed to contact the authors directly before, during, or after the peer review process to discuss any information that is presented in the manuscript. Reviewers must keep the manuscripts and information obtained strictly confidential and must not publicly discuss or disclose the contents and any other information contained within the manuscript to a third party. The guidelines for the reviewers are available [here](#).

Revised Manuscript

It is expected that any manuscripts receiving a revision decision will be fully amended according to the comments of both the reviewers and the editors.

Authors are required to:

• Include a detailed point-by-point response letter.

- Submit the revised manuscript within four weeks from the date of prior decision.
- If you are unable to submit your revised file within this timeframe, please email us to inform us of your expected submission date.
- Obtain the approval from all authors prior to submission of the revised manuscript.
-

Editors and Journal Staff as Authors

Manuscripts submitted by editors, Editorial Board members, or journal staff will follow the same process as outlined above. However, they are excluded from any editorial decision process of their own manuscript and have neither access to that manuscript nor any information about the review process other than what is provided in the editor's decision letter. Additionally, Editorial Manager, the journal's online submission and peer review system is designed to anonymize a person in other roles (editor/reviewer) from any paper he/she has authored. The manuscript submitted by editors, Editorial Board, and journal staff of JNI should include a statement that declares their personal conflict of interest with the journal.

7. Editorial Policy and Publication Ethics

Adherence to International Editorial Standards

JNI observes the highest standards in journal publication. The journal supports and adheres to the guidelines and best practices including [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#) by the [International Committee of Medical Journals Editors](#) (ICMJE) and the [Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing](#) (a joint statement by the [Committee on Publication Ethics](#) (COPE), the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) (DOAJ), the [World Association for Medical Editors](#) (WAME) and the [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](#) (OASPA); (<https://doaj.org/apply/transparency/>)).

Authorship/Contributorship

All authors listed in the manuscript must meet the following four contribution criteria as defined by the ICMJE in their [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#).

- 1) Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the research or the acquisition and analysis of data; and
- 2) Drafting the work or reviewing it critically for important intellectual content; and
- 3) Final approval of the version to be published; and
- 4) 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.

The corresponding author must ensure that a manuscript is read and approved by all authors prior to submission.

Contributors who do not meet all four criteria above should not be listed as authors. Those who do not qualify for authorship may be acknowledged individually or collectively in the Acknowledgements section. Examples include: acquisition of funding; general supervision of a research group; general administrative support and writing assistance; technical editing; language editing, and proofreading.

Authors should resolve any disagreements about the order of authorship before submission. Final author order must be confirmed by the end of the revision phase. Any changes in authorship such as order, addition, and deletion of authors must be approved by all authors and are not allowed after acceptance.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Assisted Tools/Technologies

In consonance with the [COPE's position statement](#), [WAME's recommendations](#), and [ICMJE's Recommendation](#), JNI does not allow artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted tools/technologies such as Large Language Models (LLMs), chatbots, or image creators to be listed as author or co-author. As described in the ICMJE, those tools cannot be

responsible for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of the work, thus they do not meet the ICMJE's criteria for authorship listed above.

The authors (humans) are fully responsible for any materials of the submitted work, including the use of AI-assisted tools or technologies. Authors should carefully review and edit the result because AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete, or biased. Authors should not list AI and AI-assisted technologies as an author or co-author, nor cite AI as an author. Authors (humans) are also responsible for plagiarism including in text and AI-produced images.

For example, if AI was used for writing assistance, describe this in the acknowledgment section. Authors who used AI technology to conduct the study (such as data collection, analysis, or figure generation) should describe its use in the methods section in sufficient detail to enable replication of the approach. Including the tool used, version, and prompts where applicable.

Exclusive Submission

Articles that have been previously published or are being considered for publication in another journal in any language will not be accepted. Submission of a manuscript implies that:

- the work described has not been previously published;
- it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere;
- its publication has been approved by all co-authors.

Confidentiality

All manuscript details, author information, reviewer identities, comments to the editors and the authors, and the content of the decision letter are considered privileged information and will never be disclosed to third parties.

Redundant or Duplicate Publication

Articles that are being considered for publication in another journal including advanced publications such as "in-press" or "E-pub ahead of print" articles in any language might be regarded as redundant or duplicate publication.

Authors must:

- Notify the editor of any related submissions or the previous reports that could be regarded as redundant or duplicate.
 - Cite and reference any such material in the new work.
 - Include copies of potentially related work upon submission.
- Abstracts or posters presented at scientific meetings are not considered previously published work. e.g. For studies that have been presented at a scientific meeting, "Acknowledgements" should include a sentence, such as "A part of this study has been presented at the XXth Annual Meeting of XXXXX (Month Year, City)".

If redundant or duplicate publication is attempted or occurs without prior notification, editorial actions may include rejection, retraction, publication of a violation notice, or revocation of submission privileges.

For acceptable secondary publication JN1 accepts secondary publications of only those that meet the criteria and conditions described in the [ICMJE Recommendations](#).

Conflicts of Interest and Sources of Funding

COI Disclosure:

Authors must include a statement in the title page disclosing any potential conflicts of interest (COIs). If no COIs exist, authors should state:

"The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest".

A conflict of interest (COI) exists when professional judgment concerning a primary interest (e.g., patients' welfare, research validity) may be influenced by a secondary interest (e.g., financial gain).

All authors are required to disclose any financial relations, activities, relationships and affiliations that exist, or have existed with any commercial organizations, groups, institutions, or any other entities that has any interest in the subject matter, materials, or process(es) discussed in the manuscript. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Research support (including research funding and provision of equipment or materials)
- Honoraria, consulting, employment, promotional fees, advisory role
- Stock/share ownership, patent/licensing fees
- Travel or accommodation expenses
- Any other financial, institutional or personal relationships

Disclosures will be published as submitted.

Funding Sources:

All relevant funding for the study, including support from government or non-profit organizations, must be acknowledged in the title page.

- Use the following format for funded work: "This work was supported by [*name of funder*] grant number [xxx]".
- If no funding was received, include: "This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors".
- Ensure that the full and correct details of all funders and grant numbers are included.

Research Ethics

A) Human Research Approval

Clinical research involving human subjects or materials of human origin must comply with the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. Researchers without access to an ethics review committees should follow the principles of the [Declaration of Helsinki](#).

B) Participant Consent and Anonymity:

For studies involving human subjects, written consent must be obtained from all participants (or their parent or legal guardian) for publication of any data, images, or information. Identifiable information such as names, initials, specific dates, or other personal data must not be included unless essential for scientific purposes and with participant consent. Any data or information such as patient names, initials, hospital patient identification codes (patient IDs), specific dates, or any other information which may identify patients must not be presented anywhere in the manuscript, including the Figures and Tables unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the patient (or parent or legal guardian). All pictures should focus on the affected areas only.

C) Animal Research Approval

Articles reporting on data from animal testing must indicate in the Methods section the approval of the testing design by the affiliated institution's Animal Care and Use Committee.

D) Data Availability and Reporting

Authors are required to provide clear and transparent reporting of all data used in their study. This includes submitting any relevant datasets, such as new DNA sequences, protein structures, or other data types, to appropriate public repositories (e.g., Gene Bank for DNA sequences) and including the corresponding accession numbers in the manuscript. Authors must also ensure that any data, materials, or methods are accessible for review and verification. The availability of data should be stated in the manuscript, along with any applicable links to public repositories or supplementary materials.

Misconduct and Breach of Publication Ethics

- All members of the Editorial Board of JNI promote and abide by the [COPE International Standards for responsible research publication for authors, reviewers and editors](#) when dealing with allegations of misconduct. Please see [our Ethical Polices](#) for the information.
- All manuscripts submitted to JNI must represent the authors' original work and not duplicate any other previously published work in any language. The authors must understand, and guarantee, that the same manuscript is not simultaneously submitted to, or not under consideration in, another journal.
- All authors are fully responsible for the originality and contents of their submitted manuscripts. All records and data presented in the manuscript must be accurate, without any fabrication, manipulation, or falsification.
- Authors certify that the single research or dataset is not intentionally divided into several parts to increase the number of submission or publication with JNI or other journals over time ("salami publication").
- All information and contents, such as data, text, ideas, or theories that originate from other resources must be credited and cited, as guided in the "References" of Manuscript Preparation section.
- Any misconduct that is identified is subject to investigation by the Editorial Board according to the guidelines recommended by [COPE](#). If the allegation raises any valid concerns after the investigation, the author will be contacted to address the issue. The Editor-in-Chief may decide to publish an "Expression of Concern" if suspicion is raised after the article has already been published. Should misconduct or the breach of publication ethics be established, regardless of the level or seriousness, this may result in retraction, publication of formal notice of the misconduct, formal notice to the author's institution, and a formal embargo on future contribution to JNI.

8. After Acceptance

Post-Acceptance Process

Page proofs will be sent to the corresponding author for final review. Authors are responsible for carefully checking the proofs and returning any corrections within the specified timeframe. At this stage, only minor corrections (e.g., typographical or formatting errors) are permitted; substantial changes to the content are not allowed. Any other corrections and revisions after acceptance are not permitted unless requested by the Editorial Board of JNI. After publication, further changes or corrections can only be made in the form of an Erratum which will be published separately and hyperlinked to the original article.

Copyright

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Charges

Payment of article processing fees will be charged to the authors. The fees, excluding tax, are as follows:

- Submission fee (as a system use charge): JPY 4,200
- Publication fees (as a contribution to the costs of production): JPY 40,000
- Page charges (for any article exceeding 8 pages): JPY 5,000 per page

- Regarding the article processing charge: For international bank transfers of the article processing charge, all bank fees, including the inward remittance fee (5,000 JPY), are to be borne by the author.

- Payment of the submission fee

Once you complete submitting your manuscript from JNI's manuscript submission site (<https://www.editorialmanager.com/jni/>), you will receive a submission confirmation e-mail, which contains the instruction for making a payment.

The submission fee is NON-REFUNDABLE.

- Payment of the publication fee and page charges

The Editorial Office will send a confirmation e-mail which contains the instructions for making a payment prior to the publication. The manuscript will be published only after the payment has been received. The fee is NON-REFUNDABLE.

Advertisement Policy

JNI does not accept advertising from pharmaceutical companies, device manufacturers or any other commercial entities to avoid potential conflicts of interest in editorial decision-making and to avoid advertisements by companies with potentially competing interests appearing alongside articles published in the journal.

For inquiries:

Journal of Nursing Investigation Editorial Office

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