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Publishing your Quality Improvement Manuscript

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Introduction

Scientific manuscripts serve to communicate advances in the field to the rest of the scientific community. These manuscripts often undergo a thorough peer-review process where they are critiqued and analysed by content experts; a reviewer's feedback decides whether a manuscript gets accepted or rejected by a journal.

However, writing and submitting manuscripts to a peer-reviewed journal is time-consuming and daunting. The aim of this poster is to:

- explain the structure of a typical Quality Improvement paper
- guide you through the writing of that manuscript
- provide suggestions on how to identify the right journal to submit your manuscript to
- outline the steps to journal submission

Manuscript Structure

The most important parts of a scientific manuscript are the title and the abstract; these affect selection and indexing. The **title** should contain a maximum of 12 words; while the **abstract** is a self-contained, short, and powerful statement (approximately 250–300 words) that describes a larger work. **Keywords** usually consist of five to ten words that helps with indexing.

A good **introduction** should answer the following questions in no more than two to four paragraphs:

- What is known?
- What is unknown?
- What is the question?

When explaining your **methods**, ensure that it contains sufficient information so that it can be replicated by other scientists. The **results** of your study must reflect the methods you used.

Finally, in your **discussion**, you should summarise what you found, and why it matters. Compare your results with the rest of the literature, explain why you think you got what you got, the implications, limitations, certainty, and generalisability of what you found.

Reviewers and Journal Editors

What reviewers and editors look out for:

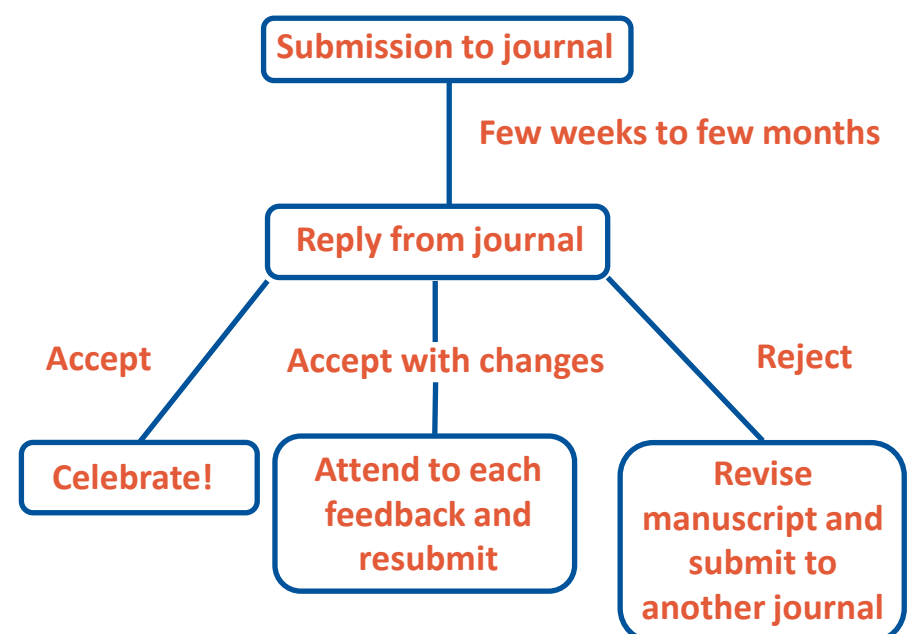
- original and interesting research that contributes to existing work
- relevance, both to the field, and to the journal
- a clear story with good flow
- good introduction, detailed methods, clear results, and a concise discussion

Journal Submission

Selecting the right journal for your manuscript increases your chances of getting accepted. Consider:

- the journal's aims and scope, including topics and type of articles
- the journal's target audience
- works cited in your manuscript
- journal search engines

Impact factor and other metrics are important, but not the most important criteria in journal selection.



Conclusion

Writing and submitting a manuscript is a long and tedious process, and it is very rare that any manuscript is accepted without the reviewers requiring any revisions, so try not to be disheartened if the reply is not favourable. Revise your manuscript and select another journal to submit to. Just remember to be clear and descriptive while writing your manuscript. Do not give up. Yet.