



Article types

Word count reminder - Papers should be written to a maximum word count of 5000 words **excluding** references, tables and figures. Please check the word count and include total word count (Abstract + Main paper) on the Abstract. **Any paper that is submitted with an excess of 5000 words without prior discussion with the editor, will be returned.**

Primary Research (RCTs/Cohort studies/Mixed Methodology studies)

- Abstract - **400 word maximum**
 - *Background/rationale*
 - *Aim(s) & objective(s)*
 - *Ethics*
 - *Methods*
 - *Results*
 - *Conclusion*
 - *Keywords (up to 10)* Up to 10 keywords that identify accurately the paper's subject, purpose and focus (Evidence Based Midwifery must be included). These keywords will be used to assist indexers in cross-indexing the article and will be published with the abstract.
 - *Total word count* (Abstract + Main paper – excluding tables/references)
- Main paper
 - *Introduction*

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.
 - *Methods*

A brief but clear outline of the methodology, making clear the study setting, the sample, the hypothesis (where relevant) and the reason for the chosen method. For RCTs we request a CONSORT diagram (Figure) and checklist (Table). Please provide information of ethical approvals granted and particular ethical considerations in your study. Please provide details of funding, if appropriate.
 - *Results*

Results should be clear and concise. Results/findings consistent with your chosen methodology. Tables and graphs may be used – **see Submission Guidelines/Tables and graphs**
 - *Discussion*

Relate your findings to focus their relevance to midwifery practice. Also include a brief statement of limitations of the research, and implications for practice and future research.
 - *Conclusion*

A concise conclusion to include implications for future practice/research

- *References*
See Submission Guidelines/References
- *Acknowledgments*
Should be kept to a minimum and include funder.
- *Funding*
Please provide a statement of funding, if applicable.
- *Ethics approvals*
Please provide the name of the Ethical Committee and reference number, if applicable.
- *Permissions*
Please provide details of any necessary permissions obtained, if applicable
- *Commercial affiliations*
Please provide a statement of any commercial affiliations linked to this study, if applicable.
- *Conflicts of interest*
Please state any known conflicts of interest, if applicable.

Guideline - Secondary Research (Literature reviews/Systematic reviews/Modified systematic reviews)

- **Abstract - 350 word maximum**
 - *Background/rationale*
 - *Research question*
 - *Search methods*
 - *Results*
 - *Conclusion*
 - *Keywords (up to 10)* Up to 10 keywords that identify accurately the paper's subject, purpose and focus (Evidence Based Midwifery must be included). These keywords will be used to assist indexers in cross-indexing the article and will be published with the abstract.
 - *Total word count* (Abstract + Main paper – excluding tables/references)
- **Main paper**
 - *Introduction*
State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.
 - *Methods*
A brief but clear outline of the research question (PICO or equivalent PEO or SPIDER), methodology to include search strategy, inclusion/exclusion criteria, study selection, quality appraisal, reflexivity (if applicable), use of PRISMA checklist, data extraction and analysis methods. Please provide details of funding, if appropriate.
 - *Results/Findings*
Results should be clear and consistent with your chosen methodology. Tables and graphs may be used – **see Submission Guidelines/Tables and graphs**
 - *Discussion*
Relate your findings to focus their relevance to midwifery practice. Also include a brief statement of limitations of the research, and implications for practice and future research.
 - *Conclusion*
A concise conclusion to include implications for future practice/research.

- *References*
See Submission Guidelines/References
- *Acknowledgments*
Should be kept to a minimum and include funder.
- *Funding*
Please provide a statement of funding if applicable.
- *Permissions*
Please provide details of any necessary permissions obtained, if applicable
- *Commercial affiliations*
Please provide a statement of any commercial affiliations linked to this study, if applicable.
- *Conflicts of interest*
The author must disclose if they have received funding or they are working for any parties liable to bring disrepute to the RCM or where there may be a conflict of interest.