

thebmj

Write for us

Our mission is to help doctors to make better decisions, in order to improve patient care and public health. This guide will help you decide whether your next research paper (or idea for an education article, analysis or opinion piece) is right for *The BMJ*—and what *The BMJ* can offer you as an author.



bmj.com



What happens to research submitted to The BMJ?

We look for research that's directly relevant to clinical care, public health, health systems, or healthcare policy. The research should have something new and important to say, with the potential to contribute to changes in policy or practice.

We especially welcome:

- **Systematic reviews and meta-analyses** of randomised clinical trials and observational studies
- **Clinical trials** that compare the effectiveness and safety of drugs, devices, or other healthcare interventions that are tested against the optimal current treatment at clinically valid doses and with sufficient duration of follow up
- Studies of the risks, advantages and properties of **diagnostic tests**
- **Clinical and population based observational studies** that look at the causes, prognosis, risks and safety of common diseases or therapies or that provide support for inferences applicable to clinical practice or healthcare policy

To our authors, we offer access to a global audience of researchers, clinicians and policymakers via one of the most highly-cited and widely read medical journals in the world. We also offer fast decision times. We believe this is especially important if we decline to publish your paper, as an early response allows you to submit elsewhere without delay.

Maximising the impact of your research

We want to help you maximise the impact of your work. If your paper is accepted we will invite you to record a podcast and to write an opinion piece which 'tells the story' of your research. Around one third of research papers are accompanied by a commissioned editorial and some also have a specially created infographic. We press release papers likely to be of wider public interest and actively promote papers to our international audience via email alerts and social media. We promote our research papers via a range of channels:

- Opinion piece
- Commissioned editorials
- Commissioned infographic
- Press release
- Podcast
- Tweets from @bmj_latest
- Email alerts



Open Access

All our research papers are Open Access, published under a Creative Commons license, with authors retaining copyright. Upon publication, all research papers are immediately available full text via bmj.com and PubMed Central. Authors may also post their article on their own and/or their employer's website. We charge an article processing fee, with waivers for those who are unable to pay.

Open peer review

We ask our peer reviewers to sign their reports so you will know who has reviewed your paper. In most cases we also publish the full prepublication history alongside the published papers, including submitted and subsequent versions of the paper and peer review and editorial reports.

Transparency

We want to help improve the quality, integrity, and reproducibility of medical research. We do this through editorial policies that promote transparency and accountability at all stages in the publication process, and through rigorous selection to identify research that's ethically and methodologically robust. We ask all authors and peer reviewers to declare their conflicts of interest and funding sources. If your study is a clinical trial, it must be prospectively registered. We also ask you to supply the trial protocol and to commit to sharing the anonymised data to third parties upon reasonable request.

No word limits

We don't have any for research papers, as we want you to be able to report your research in the fullest, most transparent, and reproducible way possible. We do ask, however, that every word earns its place!

Public and Patient Involvement

In line with our commitment to partner with patients and carers, we ask authors to state how patients and carers were involved in the design, conduct, analysis and interpretation of the research and what plans you have for informing participants of the results.

The BMJ complies with the guidelines and standards of:

- the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)
- the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME),
- the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
- the EQUATOR network

For detailed advice on how to submit a research paper, please go to: bit.ly/bmj_articletypes



Education

We don't accept unsolicited education articles, but we are always happy to look at a proposal. We prioritise articles on common or serious conditions that will be relevant to a broad range of doctors internationally.

We believe that information for doctors should be independent and unbiased, therefore our policy is not to commission education articles from authors with a relevant financial conflict of interest. Potential authors will therefore be asked to make a full Col declaration.

We will work with you to help make your article as accurate, concise, clear, and visually engaging as possible. We also ask you to involve patients and/or carers throughout the writing process and to document their involvement as contributors or coauthors.

Submit your proposal via our online form at bit.ly/bmj_edupitch



Analysis articles and Essays

Our Analysis section is a forum for debate on clinical, scientific, ethical, and policy issues. If you can present a clearly-reasoned argument, backed by an even handed look at the evidence in 1500-2000 words and a maximum of 20 references, please get in touch with your article proposal. We don't publish articles that set out a hypothesis unless you make a convincing attempt to test it.

We encourage you to include two or three coauthor from different locations and perspectives to help ensure your article is relevant and accessible to a global multidisciplinary audience. We also encourage you to seek input from patients or carers as contributors or coauthors wherever relevant.

Before writing, we ask you to discuss with us any potential conflicts of interest you or your co-authors might have, in order to ensure full disclosure and avoid rejection of your article at a later stage.

Full guidance is available online bit.ly/bmj_articletypes



Opinion

We welcome short (650-800 word) opinion pieces about the art and science of medicine that will interest our global audience of practising clinicians, healthcare professionals, researchers and policymakers.

The best opinion pieces make a single strong, novel, and well argued point, and offer highly readable and compelling comment. Trenchant opinions are welcome provided they are well supported by the evidence. Where a patient's individual case is described, you must obtain their consent.

Submission and publication are simple and quick. Email your article to blogs@bmj.com along with a high quality photo of yourself and a short biography. If the article is accepted we will edit it and upload it online.