

A GUIDE FOR POTENTIAL AUTHORS

Prior to Writing Your Manuscript, Review the Following:

RELEVANCY/CURRENCY – Is the topic current? Is it an issue you have encountered? Is it posing problems in your practice? Is it a national health care issue that is focused on ambulatory care? Could the issue/solutions that you recommend be extrapolated to other ambulatory care nurses in their practice?

EVIDENCE-BASED – Are you able to find pertinent, current (within the last five years) published evidence on the nature of the problem, or possible solutions? If not, would the topic be a prime opportunity for research within your area or in conjunction with other ambulatory care nurses in their practice?

BEST PRACTICE – Can you define the problem and solutions in the context of your ambulatory care practice?

Searching for the Evidence: The Literature Review

As part of a comprehensive review of the literature for your manuscript, it is necessary to “search for the evidence” currently published on your prospective topic. The evidence is used to support information and ideas in your manuscript.

To begin with, a **simple search strategy** to help you formulate your search is the PICO format:

P = PATIENT/PROBLEM – Who is the patient, population, or problem that you are searching?

I = INTERVENTION – What are you, as a caregiver, planning to do to address the identified issue, specific treatment, test, therapy, medication, or teaching approach?

C = COMPARISON – What specific alternative is being considered or what comparison of a known intervention with a newly identified intervention are you planning, or is there no comparison?

O = OUTCOME – What results do you plan to achieve? How was care improved or changed to relieve symptoms or to improve function?

In addition to formulating the most specific parameters for the question, it is important to find the **appropriate database** on which to search for the evidence. Examples are:

CINAHL® – provides indexing for more than 3,000 journals from the fields of nursing and allied health

EBM Reviews – Cochrane Collaboration – Cochrane Review provides systematic reviews and primary research in human health care and health policy, and recognized internationally as the highest standard in evidence-based health care

EMBASE® – a European bibliographic database that provides information on medical topics as well as tracking of drug adverse events and comparison of drug therapies for disease using evidence-based medicine research

MEDLINE® – contains journal citations and abstracts for biomedical literature from around the world

PsychINFO® – provides abstracts of systematic coverage of the psychological literature from the 1800s to the present, as well as free access to abstracts and may have links to full text articles

PubMed® – National Institute of Health database for peer-reviewed primary research reports in the life sciences

When in doubt, ask a medical librarian to assist you!

When Writing Your Manuscript, Use the Following General Outline:

INTRODUCTION – Problem > Significance > Purpose

BODY – Method > Results/Evaluation

CONCLUSION – Summary > Discussion > Recommendations

After You Complete Your Manuscript:

Encourage a co-worker to review your manuscript, focusing on the following attributes:

- Are the ideas clear and concise?
- Can the reader follow the flow of the article (i.e. identification of the issue, evidence gathered, possible solutions, identified solutions, lessons learned)?
- Is the manuscript grammatically correct? Consistent use of word tenses?
- Are citations clearly noted in APA 6th edition format in text and reference list?
- Do graphics support the information provided?

After the Manuscript is Submitted:

- Your professional nursing colleagues and AACN staff members will provide you with editorial comments.
- If portions of the manuscript are unclear, suggestions will be offered to you.
- A member of the Editorial Board will notify you whether or not your manuscript has been accepted for publication.