**Author Guidelines**

**Journal of Patan Academy of Health Sciences**

JPAHS Websites:

http://www.jpahs.com.np

http://www.pahs.edu.np/downloads/journal-of-pahs/

**INTRODUCTION**

Journal of Patan Academy of Health Sciences (JPAHS) is peer reviewed health science journal of the Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS). It is published twice a year. Articles categories include but not limited to: Original Article, Review Article, Case Report, Viewpoint, Medical education, Rural health, Student Section, Nursing section and Letter to the Editor.

*The aim of JPAHS* is to increase the visibility by open access scientific, scholarly publication to promote dissemination of health research for the benefit of society at large. Hence, JPAHS grant the permission, except for commercial use, to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles (http://www.jpahs.edu.np/ or http://www.pahs.edu.np/downloads/journal-of-pahs/). Currently JPAHS do not levy APC-article processing charges for authors.

*The editorial process* is to review the submission with the understanding that they are being submitted to JPAHS and have not been published, simultaneously submitted, or already accepted for publication elsewhere. The Editorial office review submitted manuscripts initially. Manuscripts with insufficient originality, serious scientific and technical flaws, or lack of a significant message are rejected or if good article are written poorly then author are requested to re-submit after the revision according to JPAHS format. All manuscripts received are duly acknowledged. Manuscripts are sent to two or more expert reviewers without revealing the identity of the contributors to the reviewers. Each manuscript is meticulously reviewed by the JPAHS editor based on the comments from the reviewers and takes a final decision on the manuscript. The contributors will be informed about the reviewers' comments and final decision from the JPAHS for acceptance/rejection of manuscript. Articles accepted is copy edited for grammar, punctuation, print style, and format. Page proofs are sent to the corresponding author, which has to be returned within the deadline, usually two to three days. Non response to proof copy may delay the publication or even rejected.

**SCOPE OF THE JOURNAL**

The journal publishes articles related to researches done in the field of biomedical sciences related to all the discipline of the medical sciences, medical education, public health, health policy, health care management, including ethical and social issues pertaining to health. The journal gives preference to good quality research papers with new findings, clinically oriented studies over experimental and animal studies. JPAHS give special attention to the articles providing immediate impact to the health and policy. The Journal would publish peer-reviewed original research papers, case reports, systematic reviews and meta-analysis. Editorial, Guest Editorial, Viewpoint, letter to the editor are solicited by the editorial board.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS**

Manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with "Uniform requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journals" developed by the ICMJE-International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. The uniform requirements and specific requirement of JPAHS are summarized below. Before sending a manuscript authors must complete the checklist as per JPAHS requirements, also available from the JPAHS website.

Types of Manuscript and word limits

* **Original Article:**Randomised controlled trials, interventional studied, studies of screening and diagnostic test, outcome studies, cost effectiveness analyses, case-control series and surveys with high response rate. Up to 3500 words excluding references (up to 30) and abstract (up to 250).
* **Review Article:** Systemic critical assessments of literature and data sources. Up to 4500 words excluding references (up to >50 but <100) and abstract (250).
* **Medical education:** related to medical/health science education with abstract and references, word limit and structure may vary according to types of manuscript.
* **Rural Health:** related to rural health services, word limit and structure may vary according to type of manuscripts.
* **Students Section:** related to various aspects and written by health science students, word limit and structure may vary according to types of manuscript.
* **Nursing Section:** related to nursing and midwifery, word limit and structure may vary according to types of manuscript.
* **Journalology:** related to scientific journal writing, publishing, editing word limit and structure may vary according to types of manuscript.
* **Case Report with Review of Literature:**new/interesting/rare cases with clinical significance or implications. Up to 1000 words excluding references (up to 10) and unstructured abstract (up to 100), up to three photographs.
* **Viewpoint:** personal views to express your own point of view on any issues relevant to health, including controversial subjects. Up to 1000 words excluding reference (up to 10).
* **Letter to the Editor:** Should be short, decisive observation. They should not be preliminary observations that need a later paper for validation. Up to 1000 words excluding reference (up to 10).
* **Limits for number of images and tables:** for all the above-mentioned categories the number of images and tables should approximately one per 500 words. When there is gross variation, justify.

**MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION**

Please submit manuscript through our online submission system or via email to,

The Chief Editor

Journal of Patan Academy of Health Sciences (JPAHS)

Lagankhel-5, Lalitpur, GPO Box 26500, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Email: editor.jpahs@pahs.edu.np

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**MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION**

Manuscripts must be submitted in clear, concise English language, either in British or American, do not mix. Please refer to sample of 'Forwarding, Authorship and Declaration letter' available in our website. Please provide proof of ethical approval of the research. Authors may be required to submit three sets of original figures for clarity. Please submit manuscript through our online submission system or via email.

The manuscript must be single-spaced in A4 size, Calibri 12 points. Normal margins of 25 mm. Number each page. The pages should be numbered consecutively, beginning with the title page. Each section of the manuscript should commence on a new page in the following sequence: 1. title page with full name of authors and their affiliations, corresponding author’s detail contact, running title, word count of each section and full article, numbers of tables and figures, 2. abstract structured or unstructured as per the type of manuscript, keywords, 3. introductions, 4. methods, 5. results, 6. discussions, conclusions, acknowledgements, conflict of interests, 7. references, 8. tables and figures numbered and list of title/legend. Particular attention should be taken to ensure the manuscript adheres to the style of the journal in all respects. Please do not use any signs for example “&” for “and” or “@” signs; however, you can use abbreviations used in standard text books, provided the full form has been given when it first appears in the text.

**TITLE PAGE**

The title page should carry

1. Type of manuscript (e.g. Original article, Case Report)
2. The title of the article should be concise, informative include sufficient detail to appreciate what the paper is about. It should include key words and phrases for indexing purposes. Title normally does not exceed two to three lines in print i.e. around 20 words. Do not include numbers, acronyms, abbreviations, proprietary names etc.
3. Running title or short title not more than 50 characters including spaces.
4. Authors’ name as it appears in your culture/society (e.g. Jay Narayan Shah, do NOT format to Shah JN or Shah Jay Narayan). You may mention which is first name, middle name and last name), with highest academic degree(s) for record and institutional affiliation.
5. The name of the department(s) and institution(s) to which the work should be attributed.
6. The name, address, phone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail address of the contributor responsible for correspondence about the manuscript.
7. The total number of pages, total number of table and figures, word counts for each section and for the main document (excluding the references and abstract);
8. Source(s) of support in the form of grants, equipment, drugs, or all of these;
9. Acknowledgement to individual or institute for significant contribution who do not qualify for authorship for example general support by a departmental chair, or staff-
10. Acknowledgments of and nature of technical help.
11. Acknowledgments of financial and material support, which should specify the

nature of the support.

1. If the manuscript was presented as part at a meeting or thesis, the organization, place, and exact date on which it was read.
2. Registration number of clinical trials.
3. Conflict of interest.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST PAGE**

To prevent the information on potential conflicts of interest from being overlooked or misplaced, it needs to be part of the manuscript. However, it should also be included on a separate page or pages immediately following the title page.

**ABSTRACT**

Provide full tile on abstract page. The abstract should be structured for original articles- Introductions, Methods, Results and Conclusions. State the context (background), aims, settings and design, material and methods, statistical analysis used, results and conclusions. Below the abstract should provide 3 to 8 keywords arranged alphabetically, separated by coma, all small case. The abstract should not be structured for a review article and case report. Do not include references in abstract. Avoid use of abbreviations unless absolutely necessary.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Provide a context or background for the study, the nature of the problem and its significance. Starting from global view, regional then local, it should be written in ‘inverted triangle’ in three paragraphs ideally, to end with the rationale and relevancy of the study. State the specific purpose or research objective of, or hypothesis tested by, the study or observation; the research objective is often more sharply focused when stated as a question. Both the main and secondary objectives should be clear, and any pre-specified subgroup analyses should be described. Provide only directly pertinent references, and do not include data or conclusions from the work being reported.

**METHODS**

Include detail information on materials and methods; the details of where, when, how, who, why etc, with elaborate process so as the study can be ‘reproduced’.

*Selection and Description of Participants:* Describe selection of the observational or experimental participants (patients or laboratory animals, including controls) clearly, inclusion and exclusion criteria and a description of the source population. Relevance of variables such as, age and sex, authors should explain why only certain age group or genders were included. The guiding principle should be clarity about how and why a study was done in a particular way. When authors use variables such as race or ethnicity, they should define how they measured the variables and justify their relevance. Provide working definition of your study, for example when it is about ‘elderly’ mention specifically what you mean by elderly with specific age/group.

*Technical information:* Identify the methods, apparatus (give the manufacturer's name and address in parentheses), and procedures in sufficient detail to allow other workers to reproduce the study. Give references to established methods, including statistical methods; provide references and brief descriptions for methods that have been published but are not well known; describe new or substantially modified methods, give reasons for using them, and evaluate their limitations. Identify precisely all drugs and chemicals used, including generic name(s), dose(s), and route(s) of administration.

Reports of randomized clinical trials should present information on all major study elements, including the protocol, assignment of interventions (methods of randomization, concealment of allocation to treatment groups), and the method of masking (blinding), based on the CONSORT Statement (<http://www.consort-statement.org>).

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| --- |
| **Reporting Guidelines for Specific Study Designs** |
| **Initiative**  | **Type of study**  | **Source**  |
| CONSORT  | randomized controlled trials | <http://www.consort-statement.org>  |
| STARD  | studies of diagnostic accuracy  | <http://www.consort-statement.org/stardstatement.htm>  |
| QUOROM  | systematic reviews and meta-analyses | <http://www.consort-statement.org/Initiatives/MOOSE/moose.pdf>  |
| STROBE  | observational studies in epidemiology | <http://www.strobe-statement.org>  |
| MOOSE  | meta-analyses of observational studies in epidemiology | <http://www.consort-statement.org/Initiatives/MOOSE/moose.pdf>  |

Note: Authors submitting review article should include a section describing the methods used for locating, selecting, extracting, and synthesizing data. These methods should also be summarized in the abstract

*Ethics*: Mention whether ethical approval was obtained. Indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards (Helsinki Declaration). Do not use patients’ names, initials, or hospital numbers, identifiable illustration/images. When reporting experiments on animals, indicate whether the institution’s or a national research council’s guideline, or any national law on the care and use of laboratory animals was followed.

The ‘evidence’ for approval by a local Ethics Committee must be supplied by the authors when required. Animal experimental procedures should be as humane as possible and the details of anaesthetics and analgesics used should be clearly stated. The journal will not consider any paper which is deemed unethical. A statement on ethics committee permission and ethical practices must be included in ‘Methods’ section.

*Statistics*: with details on study design, sampling technique, sample size etc. Describe statistical methods with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the original data to verify the reported results. When possible, quantify findings and present them with appropriate indicators of measurement error or uncertainty (such as confidence intervals). Avoid relying solely on statistical hypothesis testing, such as P values, which fail to convey important information about effect size. References for the design of the study and statistical methods should be to standard works when possible (with pages stated). Define statistical terms, abbreviations, and most symbols. Specify the computer software used.

**RESULTS**

Present your results in logical sequence in the text, tables, and illustrations, giving the main or most important findings first, based on your objective of the study. Do not repeat all the data in the tables or illustrations, emphasize or summarize only the most important observations. Extra or supplementary materials and technical detail can be placed in an appendix where they will be accessible but will not interrupt the flow of the text, or they can be published solely in the electronic version of the journal.

When data are summarized, give numeric results not only as derivatives (for example, percentages) but also as the absolute numbers from which the derivatives were calculated, and specify the statistical methods used to analyze them, for example ‘xx% (xx/xx)’. Use graphs as an alternative to tables with many entries; do not duplicate data in graphs and tables.

 Illustrations, table, graph and figures must be ‘cited’ appropriately, and not merely elaborate them, for e.g. do not write ‘Table xx shows that xxx’, instead write ‘we found xxx (Table xx)’. Title of the table (placed on top), and legend of the figure (placed at bottom) should be self-explanatory so as reader do not need to refer to the main document to understand what the table is about. Follow the format ‘Table x. xxx xxx’ (not Tab or Table: etc). Provide full form of any abbreviation used in table or figures, as ‘Note’ below the table or figure. Table should not exceed one A4 size.

*Tables:* Tables should be self-explanatory, with appropriately constructed title which has similar importance as the title of the manuscript, and should not duplicate textual material. Tables with more than 10 columns and 25 rows, or which do not fit in one page are not acceptable. Number tables, in Arabic numerals, consecutively in the order of their first citation in the text and supply a brief title for each. Type or print each table with double spacing on a separate sheet of paper. Number tables consecutively in the order of their first citation in the text and supply a brief title for each. Do not use internal horizontal or vertical lines. Give each column a short or an abbreviated heading. Authors should place explanatory matter in footnotes, not in the heading. Explain all nonstandard abbreviations in footnotes, and use the following symbols, in sequence: \*, †, ‡, §, ||, ¶, \*\* , †† ,‡‡

Identify statistical measures of variations, such as standard deviation and standard error of the mean.

If you use data from another published or unpublished source, obtain permission and acknowledge that source fully. Submit such tables for consideration with the paper so that they will be available to the peer reviewers.

*Illustrations (Figures)*: Graphs, charts, diagrams or pen drawings must be drawn by professional hands in Indian ink (black) on white drawing paper. In case of x-ray, miniature photo prints should be supplied. Photographs should be supplied in high quality glossy paper not larger than 203 mm x 254 mm (8” x 10”). In case of microphotographs, stains used and magnification should be mentioned. Each illustration should bear on its back the figure number and an arrow indicating the top. All illustrations should be black and white and should be submitted in triplicate with suitable legends. We accept electronic versions of illustrations, which should have a resolution of 300 dpi, and the dimension of 640 x 480 to 800 x 600 pixels dimension and picture format should be JPEG (\*.jpg, \*.jpeg) or TIFF (\*.tif, \*.tiff). Pictures will be published in B/W free of charge. But, if you want to publish your picture in color, please contact the editorial board for the cost and payment procedure.

For x-ray films, scans, and other diagnostic images, as well as pictures of pathology specimens or photomicrographs, send sharp, glossy, black-and-white or color photographic prints, usually 127 x 173 mm (5 x 7 inches). Letters, numbers, and symbols on figures should therefore be clear and consistent throughout and large enough to remain legible when the figure is reduced for publication.

Photomicrographs should have internal scale markers. Symbols, arrows, or letters used in photomicrographs should contrast with the background.

Photographs of potentially identifiable people must be accompanied by written permission to use the photograph.

Figures should be numbered consecutively according to the order in which they have been cited in the text. If a figure has been published previously, acknowledge the original source and submit written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce the figure. Permission is required irrespective of authorship or publisher except for documents in the public domain.

*Legends for Illustrations (Figures)*: Type or print out legends for illustrations using double spacing, starting on a separate page, with Arabic numerals corresponding to the illustrations. When symbols, arrows, numbers, or letters are used to identify parts of the illustrations, identify and explain each one clearly in the legend. Explain the internal scale and identify the method of staining in photomicrographs.

**DISCUSSIONS**

Emphasize and start discussion with the new and important findings of ‘your study’ and the conclusions that follow from them to support your study objective. Do not repeat in detail data or other information given in the ‘Introduction or the Results section’. Begin by summarizing briefly the main findings, then explore possible mechanisms or explanations for these findings, compare and contrast with relevant literature, state the limitations of the study, and explore the implications of the findings for future research and for clinical practice. Discussion should be written in ‘triangle’ form ‘starting from your study to the regional and global’, opposite to the structure of ‘introduction’.

Link the conclusions with the goals of the study but avoid unqualified statements and conclusions not adequately supported by the data. Do not make statements on economic benefits and costs unless the manuscript includes the data and analyses. Avoid claiming priority or alluding to work that has not been completed. State new hypotheses when warranted.

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The JPAHS follows uses modified Vancouver referencing style, in accordance with the ICMJE guideline (<http://www.icmje.org>  or <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html>). For in-depth details on referencing, please visit website of ‘Citation Medicine, The NLM Style Guide for Authors, Editors, and Publishers’ (http://[www.ncbi.nlm.hig.gov/books/NBK7256/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.hig.gov/books/NBK7256/)) for details of referencing style for journals, books, internet, media etc.

Do not use software’s facility of automatic referencing, footnotes, headers, footers, etc. Remove the automatic formatting in submission.

**UNITS OF MEASUREMENT**

Measurements of length, height, weight, and volume should be reported in metric units (meter, kilogram, or liter) or their decimal multiples.

Temperatures should be in degrees Celsius. Blood pressures should be in millimetres of mercury, unless other units are specifically required by the journal.

Journals vary in the units they use for reporting hematologic, clinical chemistry, and other measurements. Authors must consult the Information for Authors of the particular journal and should report laboratory information in both local and International System of Units (SI). Editors may request that authors add alternative or non-SI units, since SI units are not universally used. Drug concentrations may be reported in either SI or mass units, but the alternative should be provided in parentheses where appropriate.

**ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS**

Use only standard abbreviations; use of nonstandard abbreviations can be confusing to readers. Avoid abbreviations in the title of the manuscript. The spelled-out abbreviation followed by the abbreviation in parenthesis should be used on first mention unless the abbreviation is a standard unit of measurement.

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**DUAL PUBLICATION**

If material in a submitted article has been published previously or is to appear in part or whole in another publication, the Chief Editor must be informed. If the same paper appears simultaneously elsewhere or has previously been published or appears in a future publication, then the author will be black-listed for the JPAHS and future articles of the author will be rejected automatically.

**FORWARDING LETTER**

The covering letter accompanying the article should contain the name and complete postal address of one author as correspondent and must be signed by all authors. The corresponding author should notify change of address, if any, on time.

**DECLARATION**

A declaration letter should be submitted stating that the manuscript represents valid work and that neither this manuscript nor one with substantially similar content under the present authorship has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere and the authorship of this article will not be contested by anyone whose name(s) is/are not listed here, and that the order of authorship as placed in the manuscript is final and accepted by the co-authors. Declarations should be signed by all the authors in the order in which they are mentioned in the original manuscript.

**SENDING A REVISED MANUSCRIPT**

While submitting a revised manuscript, contributors are requested to include, along with single copy of the final revised manuscript, a copy of the revised manuscript with the changes underlined in red and with the point to point clarification to each comment. The manuscript number should be written on each of these documents.

If the manuscript is submitted online, the contributors’ form and copyright transfer form has to be submitted in original with the signatures of all the contributors within two weeks from submission and scanned copy can be submitted while online submission. Hard copies of the images, for articles submitted online, should be sent to the journal office at the time of submission of a revised manuscript.

**CHECK LIST (details on JPAHS website)**

While submitting your manuscript to JPAHS please make sure you have submitted all documents as per checklist:



