

AJRH REVIEWER'S GUIDE

Thank you for serving as a reviewer for the *African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH)*. This guide outlines the key elements to consider when evaluating manuscripts submitted to the journal. Reviewers are encouraged to use these standards to ensure that all submissions meet the required level of quality, clarity, and academic rigor expected by the AJRH.

Title

The title should be clear, concise, and suitable for indexing. Reviewers are encouraged to suggest alternative titles where necessary.

Abstract

The abstract should not exceed 200 words. It must include a summary of rationale for the study, specific objectives, methods, key results, and the conclusion. Abbreviations are not allowed (e.g., write “United Nations” instead of “UN”). Excessive statistics should be avoided; only the major findings should be reported.

Introduction

The introduction should not exceed two pages. It should clearly present the rationale, significance, and novelty of the study, and end with the specific objectives. A separate literature review section is not required; relevant literature should be integrated into the introduction. A conceptual framework may be written in a separate subheading after the introduction when necessary to describe how the main variables (dependent and independent) in the study interact.

Methods

The methods section should provide a clear and detailed description of how the study was conducted, written entirely in the past tense. It should include information on sample size determination, sampling techniques, and data analysis procedures. The section must end with a subsection on ethical considerations, including the name of the approving institution, the date of approval, and the approval number.

Results

Results should be clearly and explicitly presented. Tables and figures must be legible, well-formatted with clear legends, and made clearly visible and smart for publication. Information provided in the tables and figures should not be unduly repeated in the narrative within the results section. The results section should not contain more than five tables and figures in total.

The results and discussion should be presented as separate sections and should not be merged. Indeed, no discussion of the results should be undertaken in any section of the discussion. Discussion of the results should only be undertaken in the discussion section.

Discussion

The discussion section should interpret the results clearly and should be placed within the context of the existing literature. As much as possible, the most recent literature should be cited in the discussion and elsewhere in the manuscript. The discussion section should also include a subsection that addresses the strengths and limitations of the study, and highlight the implications of the findings for policy and practice.

Conclusion

The manuscript should end with a brief conclusion summarizing the extent to which the study objectives were achieved. The conclusion should not exceed one paragraph.

References

In-text citations should be in superscript numbers (without brackets), not author-date format. Every statement requiring verification should be properly referenced. The reference list must conform to the AJRH referencing style which is based on the Vancouver format, but with the modification that an “and” should be included between the last two authors in each citation.

Language and clarity

Authors must ensure clear and correct use of English throughout the manuscript, as the journal does not provide copyediting services.

We appreciate your commitment to maintaining the high standards of the AJRH. Your careful and thorough reviews play a vital role in ensuring the quality, integrity, and impact of the research we publish. Thank you for your valuable contribution to the journal’s mission