**Sample text for your Instructions for Authors**

This document contains template text to include in your Instructions for Authors. Choose the template text that best suits the implementation route your journal has selected. Editors may like to use the first one to two suggested paragraphs for their journal. Publishers may like to add the extra paragraphs explaining the rationale behind guidelines and checklists for their suites of journals.

If you have selected certain reporting guidelines for your journal, you will find introducing sentences to include in your Instructions for Authors for the major reporting guidelines at the end of this document.

The sample text here is based on wording suggested by the CONSORT statement.

**Endorse guidelines route**

[Journal name] endorses the use of an appropriate reporting guideline when writing any health research manuscript. You can find the most commonly required reporting guidelines here [hyperlink to guidelines on journal site] or on the EQUATOR Network [www.equator-network.org], which also gives general information on how to choose the correct guideline and why guidelines are important.

At minimum, your article should report the content addressed by each item of the identified checklist or state that the item was not considered in the study (for example, if you did not use blinding, your article should say so). Meeting these basic reporting requirements will greatly improve the value of your manuscript, may facilitate/enhance the peer review process, and may enhance its chances for eventual publication.

**Endorse guidelines and request checklist route**

[Journal name] endorses the use of an appropriate reporting guideline when writing any health research manuscript.

We encourage you to submit completed checklists for the relevant guidelines (and flow diagram if applicable) alongside your manuscript, indicating the manuscript page on which each checklist item is found. Editable checklists for reporting guidelines can be found here [hyperlink to guidelines on journal site] or on the EQUATOR Network site [www.equator-network.org], which also gives general information on how to choose the correct guideline and why guidelines are important. Using a checklist helps to ensure you have used a guideline correctly.

At minimum, your article should report the content addressed by each item of the identified checklist or state that the item was not considered in the study and, if relevant, the reason why not (for example, if you did not use blinding, your article should explain this). Meeting these basic reporting requirements will greatly improve the value of your manuscript, may facilitate/enhance the peer review process, and may enhance its chances for eventual publication.

Checklists are not simply an administrative hurdle. We ask you to complete a checklist because this helps you to check that you have included all of the important information in your article, and because it helps our editors and reviewer to complete the same check. If the checklist indicates an item that you have not addressed in your manuscript, please either explain in the manuscript text why this information is not relevant to your study or add the relevant information.

**Require guidelines and checklist route**

[Journal name] requires the use of an appropriate reporting guideline when writing any health research manuscript.

You must submit a completed checklist for the relevant guideline (and flow diagram if applicable) alongside your manuscript, indicating the manuscript page on which each checklist item is found. Editable checklists for reporting guidelines can be found here [hyperlink to guidelines on journal site] or on the EQUATOR Network site [www.equator-network.org], which also gives general information on how to choose the correct guideline and why guidelines are important. Using a checklist helps to ensure you have used a guideline correctly.

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**For all routes, you could include the following after the main statement** [Delete the guideline classes that are inappropriate for your journal’s scope and add other guidelines you endorse]

Some common study types and the appropriate guidelines are listed below. If you cannot find an appropriate guideline here, search the full EQUATOR database and talk to our editor.

You may need to use more than one guideline, depending on your research. For example, if you randomly assigned human participants to one of two interventions, then conducted unstructured interviews with each participant, you will need to use CONSORT, COREQ, and TIDIER together. To make sure you collect all of the relevant guidelines, check each major heading, even if you have already found a relevant guideline under a previous major heading.

If you are reporting a **protocol**

Use the SPIRIT guideline for the protocol of a clinical trial

Use the PRISMA-P guideline for the protocol of a systematic review

If you are reporting a **review of a section of the existing literature**

Use the ENTREQ guideline for a review of studies that use descriptive data, such as unstructured interviews (qualitative data)

Use the MOOSE guideline for a review of observational studies

Use the PRISMA guideline for any other kind of systematic review or meta-analysis

If you are reporting on **animal research**

Use the ARRIVE guideline for research on animals in a lab

Use the REFLECT guideline for research on livestock

If you are reporting **descriptive data (either alone or alongside quantitative data)**

Use the COREQ guideline for reporting unstructured interviews and focus groups

Use the CARE guideline for reporting one case study or a series of case studies

Use the SRQR guideline for any other descriptive data (qualitative research)

If you are reporting **research into diagnosis**

Use the STARD guideline if you compared the accuracy of a diagnostic test with an established reference standard test

Use the REMARK guideline if you evaluated the prognostic value of a biomarker

Use the TRIPOD guideline if you developed, validated, or updated a prognostic or diagnostic prediction modelling tool.

If you are reporting **research into an intervention or treatment on people**

Use the TIDIER guideline to fully describe your intervention

Use the CHEERS guideline for an economic evaluation of the interventions

If you are reporting **research into an intervention, treatment, exposure, or protective factor on people**

Use the CARE guideline for reporting one case study or a series of case studies

Use the CONSORT guideline or one of its extensions:

If you selected your participants before they received the intervention/exposure/etc. under study, AND

You controlled which intervention/exposure/etc. they each received, AND

You used a random allocation method to decide which intervention/exposure/etc. they each received.

*ie: a randomised controlled trial*

Use the STROBE guideline or one of its extensions:

If you selected your participants after they received the intervention/exposure/etc. under study, OR

You selected your participants before they received the intervention/exposure/etc. under study AND you did not control which intervention/exposure/etc. they received (they decided/their doctor decided/life just happened)

*ie: an observational study*

Use the TREND guideline:

If you selected your participants before they received the intervention/exposure/etc. under study, AND

If CARE, CONSORT, and STROBE are not applicable to your research AND

You used a non-random way to decide which intervention/exposure/etc. your participants received, such as which hospital they went to or what their clinical symptoms were.

*ie: a non-randomised trial*