The EQUATOR Network
supporting writers to publish high-impact health research

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Medcomms Networking Event
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http://www.medcommsnetworking.com/
The EQUATOR Network

- **Why?** was EQUATOR established?
- **What?** is EQUATOR?
- **How?** do we achieve our mission?
Widespread deficiencies in research reporting
Guidance existed but was difficult to find and not used.
What is the EQUATOR Network?

- Established by Prof Doug Altman in 2006

- An online “home” for **reporting guidelines** and other resources to support good reporting of health research

- **Recognised brand** representing honesty and integrity in research
Reporting guidelines

- ‘Reminders’ of scientific content
  - What you did
  - What you found

- Structure
  - Checklist, headings
  - Flow diagram

- Based on evidence and international consensus
  - Good examples
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section/Topic</th>
<th>Item No</th>
<th>Checklist item</th>
<th>Reported on page No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title and abstract</td>
<td>1a</td>
<td>Identification as a randomised trial in the title</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1b</td>
<td>Structured summary of trial design, methods, results, and conclusions (for specific guidance see CONSORT for abstracts)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Background and objectives</td>
<td>2a</td>
<td>Scientific background and explanation of rationale</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2b</td>
<td>Specific objectives or hypotheses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methods</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trial design</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>Description of trial design (such as parallel, factorial) including allocation ratio</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3b</td>
<td>Important changes to methods after trial commencement (such as eligibility criteria), with reasons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>4a</td>
<td>Eligibility criteria for participants</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4b</td>
<td>Settings and locations where the data were collected</td>
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</table>

CONSORT 2010 Flow Diagram

CONSORT checklist of information to include when reporting a randomised trial

Enrollment

Assessed for eligibility (n= )

Excluded (n= )
- Not meeting inclusion criteria (n= )
- Declined to participate (n= )
- Other reasons (n= )
Most relevant to MedComms

- CONSORT + extensions
  - Abstracts
  - Non-inferiority, cluster
  - Harms
- SAMPL – statistical reporting
- Oncology, genetics + many other specialties
- GNOSIS (Phase 1 and 2 trials)
- Pharmacovigilance – case reports
One-stop shop

Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research

Your one-stop-shop for writing and publishing high-impact health research

Library for health research reporting

<table>
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<th>Reporting guidelines for main study types</th>
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<td>Randomised trials</td>
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<td>Observational studies</td>
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<td>Economic evaluations</td>
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<td>Animal pre-clinical studies</td>
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<td>Study protocols</td>
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<td>Clinical practice guidelines</td>
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Visit our new browse reporting guidelines by specialty page
Library for research reporting

Guidance on scientific writing
- Guidelines and guides
- Books
- Courses
- Presentations
- Other resources

Guidelines and guides
- Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals: Manuscript Preparation and Submission

Industry sponsored research – additional guidance

Good publication practice for pharmaceutical companies

Authors' Submission Toolkit
- A resource guide to best practices in the preparation and submission of manuscripts describing industry-sponsored research prepared by the Medical Publishing Insights and Practices Initiative (MPIP)
- Reporting adverse events in clinical trial publications developed by Medical Publishing Insights and Practices (MPIP), the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals and representatives from the pharmaceutical industry

Authorship framework for disclosing contributors to industry-sponsored clinical trial publications

Guidance developed by professional organisations
- American Medical Writers Association (AMWA)
- European Medical Writers Association (EMWA)
- International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP)
- Joint statement on the role of medical writers from AMWA, EMWA, and ISMPP explicitly mentioning reporting guidelines and EQUATOR Network, issued January 2017
Database of reporting guidelines

Search for reporting guidelines

Browse for reporting guidelines by selecting one or more of these drop-downs:

Study type
Please select... ▼

Clinical area
Please select... ▼

Section of report
Please select... ▼

Or search with free text
Search Reporting Guidelines

Displaying 359 reporting guidelines found.

Most recently added records are displayed first.

1. Best Practices in Data Analysis and Sharing in Neuroimaging using MRI
EQUATOR activities

- Raise awareness of the impact of poor reporting
- Highlight our tools and resources
- Engage with professional communities
- Provide training
Prof Patrick Bossuyt

8th EQUATOR Annual Lecture 2017, Peer Review Congress, Chicago
EQUATOR toolkits

Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research

Toolkits
This section provides practical help and resources to support you in:

- Writing research
- Using guidelines in your journal
- Teaching research skills
- Selecting the appropriate reporting guideline

Reporting guidelines for main study types

- Randomised trials
  - CONSORT
  - Extensions
- Observational studies
  - STROBE
  - Extensions
- Systematic reviews
  - PRISMA
  - Extensions
- Case reports
  - CARE
  - Extensions
- Qualitative research
  - SQUIRE
- Diagnostic / prognostic studies
  - STARD
  - TRIPOD
- Quality improvement studies
- Economic evaluations
  - CHEERS
  - ARRIVE
- Animal pre-clinical studies
- Study protocols
  - SPIRIT
  - PRISMA-P
- Clinical practice guidelines
Toolkit for researchers and medical writers

How to write a great research paper using reporting guidelines

Welcome to our toolkit for writing research!

Using the resources you find here will set you on the right road to writing a great research paper using reporting guidelines

When published, your article will start a new independent life. It will be read and critically appraised, and it may contribute to systematic reviews, inform clinical guidelines, and influence clinical practice.

Before you submit your paper to a journal, you need to consider whether the article will achieve its purpose:

- Will a Cochrane reviewer be able to scrutinise your study’s methods to assess the risk of bias?
- Would another researcher be able to replicate your experiment?
- Can numerical results be extracted from your paper easily?
- Have you provided enough detail about your intervention to allow its use in clinical practice?

The resources in this toolkit will help you achieve a long and useful life for your article by reporting it in the best way possible.

- Find the right reporting guideline with the EQUATOR wizard
- Browse the EQUATOR library of reporting guidelines
- Read chapters from our textbook explaining why reporting guidelines are helpful
- Look at examples of good reporting
- Using COBWEB, an online tool for writing randomised controlled trial reports
Education and training

- Clinician, postdoc and student researchers
- Medical writers – agencies and pharma companies
- Humanitarian organisations
- Academic and healthcare leaders

"It was an excellent workshop and I shared the main take-home messages with colleagues. It helped me a lot, even after years of this kind of thing, to put my thoughts in order."

"Thank you for the inspiration and energy that you have given me to go back home to my students and colleagues and tell them again and again about EQUATOR."
“It is difficult for me to think of any other single initiative on Research Methodology that has had a similar broad impact on research as EQUATOR.

The EQUATOR Network has become an indispensable resource for researchers (as authors of research papers across very diverse types of investigation), editors and peer reviewers for guidance on health research reporting and general issues relating to the responsible conduct and reporting of health research.”

John P.A. Ioannidis, MD, DSc

Essay

Why Most Published Research Findings Are False

John P.A. Ioannidis
Thank you

Contact me to discuss opportunities for EQUATOR to provide tailored training for your staff

Caroline Struthers
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EQUATOR Network | www.equator-network.org | @EQUATORNetwork | #EQPubSchool

https://www.csm.ox.ac.uk/team/caroline-struthers