

✱ How to Write for Publication

Sharing Your Knowledge to Advance Kidney Care Nursing

Writing for publication is a powerful way to share learning, influence practice, and contribute to the evidence base in kidney care. Whether you're publishing research, a service improvement project, or a reflective piece, good planning and preparation can make all the difference.

🕒 Before You Start Writing

✓ Clarify your goals

Ask yourself:

- Why do I want to publish this work?
- Who should know about it — nurses, multidisciplinary teams, researchers, educators?
- What type of article am I writing (research, service evaluation, reflective piece, opinion article)?
- Who is the intended readership?
- How confident am I feeling about writing for publication — and who can support me?

✓ Seek support and advice

Talk to someone experienced in publishing. Their guidance can help you choose a suitable journal and avoid common pitfalls.

✓ Choose the right journal

- Create a shortlist and read recent articles to understand the tone, style, and focus
- Review journals you have referenced — they are likely interested in your topic
- Consider open access vs subscription journals (and whether funding is available)
- Check journal *impact factors* — high-impact journals are more competitive

✓ Decide who will write with you

If writing as a team, clarify each person's contribution. Everyone listed as an author must have played a meaningful role in the work or the writing.

✓ Review submission requirements

Each journal has strict guidelines on:

- Word count
- Format & structure
- Referencing style
- Required documents (checklists, data sharing, ethical statements)

Following these guidelines is essential — manuscripts not formatted correctly may be returned without review.

When You Write

Follow the journal's instructions exactly

Formatting, structure, and word count matter. Review the author guidance frequently.

Prepare supporting materials

Some journals require reporting checklists (e.g., PRISMA, CONSORT), ethical approvals, or data statements.

Submit correctly

Most journals use online submission portals — follow each step carefully.

Seek feedback before submitting

Ask an experienced colleague to review your manuscript. They can help check:

- Clarity and flow
- Spelling and grammar
- Whether key points are explained well

If English is not your first language, ask a native speaker to help ensure it reads fluently and naturally.

Test your article with your target audience

Ask a peer in your field: *Does this make sense to you? Is it pitched at the right level?*

After Submission

Monitor your email

You will receive updates from the journal — sometimes over several months.

Expect revisions

Very few manuscripts are accepted without changes. Reviewer comments are part of the process.

Respond professionally and clearly

If asked to revise:

- Note the resubmission deadline
- Create a table showing each reviewer comment and your response
- Explain any suggestions you could not address (and why)
- Thank the reviewers for their feedback — even if it feels challenging!

 If rejected, don't lose heart

Rejection is common.

Reflect on feedback, refine your work, and consider submitting to another journal.

 Final Encouragement

Publishing takes perseverance — but your voice, experience, and insights matter.

Each article contributes to improving care for people with kidney disease and strengthening our nursing profession.

Believe in your work — and keep going. 
