



A Neonatal Nurses Association (NNA) Guide

Getting started with publishing

Video series

This brief guide aims to give you some tips and advice on getting your work published, for those who are new to this area, or need some support getting started. Please refer to the key points in this guide at the same time as watching the brief videos that have been developed. Examples of the different types of paper are also given. The content of this series of videos is as follows:

- **1-Supporting you to publish**
- **2-Writing a discussion paper**
- **3-Writing a research paper or quality improvement (QI) project**
- **4-Writing a case study or reflective account**
- **5-Writing for the Journal of Neonatal Nursing (JNN)**

VIDEO 1- Supporting you to publish

The NNA believe it is important to support our members and our body of neonatal nurses / allied health professionals (AHPs) to develop professionally, progress in their roles and showcase good practice. Publishing is one ideal way of achieving these aims. We also recognise that publishing, particularly if you are a student or a new staff nurse / AHP, can be daunting and that support is required to help and guide you appropriately. The first video provides an overview of how we can support you, including:

- Linking with our special interest group 'LEARN' (*Linking Education and Research in Neonatal care*) for support and advice. Contact via Dr. Katie Gallagher.
- Watch out for our NNA webinar(s) – for example '*Turning your dissertation into a publication*' – see <https://nna.org.uk/events/>
- Special online student supplement in our NNA journal – '*Journal of Neonatal Nursing*'- an opportunity for you to publish in a dedicated supplement aimed at those new to publishing.
- Keep in touch with us at the NNA and send us specific queries you may have- Contact via Dr. Katie Gallagher & Dr. Julia Petty- see our contact details later.

VIDEO 2- Writing a Discussion paper

A discussion paper is also sometimes called a 'review paper' and is an article &/or commentary on a chosen topic of interest and relevance to your audience. Consider a specific angle that is of current interest or requiring attention due to lack of available literature or knowledge. In addition, the paper needs to have international relevance, it needs to be supported by literature in line with evidence-based principles and it needs to be applied to practice. Take a look at the journal and see how these types of papers are structured and written. Commonly, discussion papers have the following sections:

- ✓ **Abstract** – a summary of the whole paper
- ✓ **Introduction** – sets the scene- what is the paper about?
- ✓ **Background**- the evidence-based context /supporting literature- what else is written on the topic?
- ✓ **Aims**- what will the reader gain from reading the paper?
- ✓ **Main body of the paper**- use sub-titles to divide up the key themes / areas of discussion.
- ✓ **Recommendations for practice Or Implications for practice** – how can the key points be used in your practice?
- ✓ **Conclusion** - a concise summary

To illustrate this type of paper, take a look at the examples below:

- ❖ Forbes-Coe, A., Dawson, J., Flint, A., & Walker, K. (2020). The evolution of the neonatal nurse practitioner role in Australia: A discussion paper. *Journal of Neonatal Nursing*, 26(4), 197-200.
 - ❖ Green, J., Staff, L., Bromley, P., Jones, L., & Petty, J. (2021). The implications of face masks for babies and families during the COVID-19 pandemic: A discussion paper. *Journal of Neonatal Nursing*, 27(1), 21-25.
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VIDEO 3- Writing a research paper or quality improvement (QI) project

These papers are write-ups of a study or project that you have completed, to disseminate the findings / outcomes. Commonly, research studies / QI reports papers have the following sections:

- ✓ **Abstract** - a summary of the whole study / project
- ✓ **Introduction** - sets the scene- what is the study/project about?
- ✓ **Background**- the evidence-based context /supporting literature- what else has been researched on the topic / area?
- ✓ **Aims / Research question** – what does your study / project set out to achieve and ask?
- ✓ **Design / methodology** – the research design, underpinning framework / paradigm and methods used.

- ✓ **Analysis** – how was the data managed / handled?
- ✓ **Results / Findings** – what was found? Objective reporting of the findings.
- ✓ **Discussion** – what are the wider implications / issues for further discussion that arose from the findings? This section includes the study limitations.
- ✓ **Recommendations for practice** –key points for practice?
- ✓ **Conclusion** - a concise summary.

The video talks you through some pointers. Some journals ask you to complete reporting guidelines for your methodology. See- <https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/srqr/>

To illustrate this type of paper, take a look at the examples below:

- ❖ Gibbs, D., Odeh, N., Theron, M., & Harding, C. (2021). Level 1 neonatal nursing staff perceptions of their role: A qualitative Framework Analysis study investigating the complex and diverse workload undertaken by nurses in special care baby units. *Journal of Neonatal Nursing*, 27(4), 244-250.
- ❖ Shaw, C., Gallagher, K., Petty, J., Mancini, A., & Boyle, B. (2021). Neonatal nursing during the COVID-19 global pandemic: a thematic analysis of personal reflections. *Journal of Neonatal Nursing*, 27(3), 165-171.

VIDEO 4- Writing a case study /a reflection on practice

A case study paper is a summary of the care of a specific case which is of interest or perhaps novel, where key learning points emerge. These papers start by describing the case and then summarising important areas of learning to apply to practice. The video talks you through some. There are two examples below:

- ❖ Ormston, K., Rose, E., & Gallagher, K. (2022). George's Lullaby: A case study of the use of Music Therapy to support parents and their infant on a palliative pathway. *Journal of Neonatal Nursing*, 28(3), 203-206.
- ❖ Carreira, R., Palaré, M. J., Prior, A. R., Garcia, P., & Abrantes, M. (2015). An unusual cause of neonatal cyanosis.... *BMJ Case Reports*, bcr2014208371.

You may also wish to write a reflection on practice or aspect care. These are shorter articles that may be started as 'letter to the editor' or a concise summary of something you have reflected on that you think others may learn from, or find of interest for their practice. Some examples of reflective pieces are here:

- ❖ Chalkright, D., & Nurse, S. (2017). Advocating with confidence; does past experience help? *Journal of Neonatal Nursing*, 23(2), 82-85.
- ❖ Harding, C., Aloysius, A., Bell, N., Edney, S., Gordon, Z., Lewis, H., ... & Murphy, R. (2021). Reflections on COVID-19 and the potential impact on preterm infant feeding and speech, language and communication development. *Journal of Neonatal Nursing*, 27(3), 220-222.

VIDEO 5- Writing and submitting your work to the Journal of Neonatal Nursing (JNN)

Our NNA journal, affiliated with the Council of International Nurses (COINN), is the *Journal of Neonatal Nursing (JNN)*. The JNN offers a supportive platform for you to start publishing.

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR PUBLISHING IN THE JNN

Consider the following points:

- Who is your audience? ...
- Think your ideas over ...
- Choose your topic / focus....
- Consider / decide what type of paper it is you want to write ...
- Keep it simple. ...
- Access and read the **JNN guidelines for authors** at...
<https://www.elsevier.com/journals/journal-of-neonatal-nursing/1355-1841/guide-for-authors>
- Note what sections are recommended, the suggested word count, any specific journal requirements and the referencing procedure.
- Find some protected time to write ...
- Pay attention to your writing style, consistent with the type of paper you are writing ...
- Write and edit later; ensure you proof-read carefully or ask someone else to do this ...
- When you are ready to submit, you will need to register with the journal as an author within the **submission link** here-
<https://www.editorialmanager.com/jneo/default1.aspx> This link is also used to submit your work when you are ready.

For further information-

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