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ISSN: 2468-8630

### DESCRIPTION

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*Musculoskeletal Science & Practice*, international journal of **musculoskeletal physiotherapy**, is a **peer-reviewed international journal** (previously *Manual Therapy*), publishing high quality original research, review and Masterclass articles that contribute to improving the clinical understanding of appropriate care processes for **musculoskeletal disorders**. The journal publishes articles that influence or add to the body of **evidence** on diagnostic and therapeutic processes, **patient centered care**, guidelines for **musculoskeletal therapeutics** and theoretical models that support developments in assessment, diagnosis, clinical reasoning and interventions.

Papers published in *Musculoskeletal Science & Practice* are of international relevance and have an over-arching applied clinical focus or serve to inform clinical approaches.

The journal publishes papers that show depth, rigour, originality and high quality presentation which inform the **evidence base** relating to mechanisms of function/dysfunction; treatment methods; best clinical practice; clinical reasoning and decision making processes; assessment and clinical management of musculoskeletal disorders; exploration of relevant clinical interventions; multi modal approaches; psychosocial issues; and service user expectations, experiences and perspectives.

**Quantitative, qualitative** and **mixed methods** research articles are welcomed as well as systematic and high quality narrative **reviews**. Other regular features include **Masterclasses** and **Technical and Measurement reports**.

The journal employs a double blind peer review process for all original articles.

All articles published in *Musculoskeletal Science & Practice* will be immediately assigned to an issue upon acceptance, without having to wait in press. This will mean immediate publication for all authors, upon completion of post-acceptance publishing processes.

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## GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

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We now differentiate between the requirements for new and revised submissions. You may choose to submit your manuscript as a single Word or PDF file to be used in the refereeing process. Only when your paper is at the revision stage, will you be requested to put your paper in to a 'correct format' for acceptance and provide the items required for the publication of your article.

**To find out more, please visit the Preparation section below.**

### INTRODUCTION

The journal editors, Ann Moore and Gwen Jull, welcome the submission of papers for publication.

Submission to this journal proceeds totally online at <https://www.evise.com/profile/api/navigate/YMATH>. Use the following guidelines to prepare your article.

You will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of the various files. The system automatically converts source files to a single Adobe Acrobat PDF version of the article, which is used in the peer-review process. Please note that even though manuscript source files are converted to PDF at submission for the review process, these source files are needed for further processing after acceptance. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, takes place by e-mail and via the Author's homepage, removing the need for a hard-copy paper trail.

### *Manuscript Categories and Word Counts*

Manuscripts should not exceed the following word counts:

**Original Research Articles using quantitative data** - 3500 words (Structured Abstract (up to 250 words) and Keywords are not included in the word count. 'In-text' references are included in the word count).

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**Professional Practice** - 2000 words (Structured Abstract (up to 250 words) and Keywords are not included in the word count. 'In-text' references are included in the word count).

**Technical and Measurement Notes** - 2000 words (Structured Abstract (up to 250 words) and Keywords are not included in the word count. 'In-text' references are included in the word count).

**Masterclass** - 4000 words (Structured Abstract (up to 250 words) and Keywords are not included in the word count. 'In-text' references are included in the word count).

**Letters to the Editor** - 500 words (This word count includes the references contained within the article.)

#### *Submitting a Masterclass*

In keeping with the ethos and standards inherent in *Musculoskeletal Science and Practice*, Masterclasses must show depth, rigour, originality and high standards of presentation. The purpose of the Masterclass section is to describe in detail clinical aspects of conservative musculoskeletal interventions. This may relate to specific treatment techniques, a particular management approach or management of a specific clinical entity. Masterclasses are showcase articles and authors are normally invited to write a masterclass paper because of their significant expertise in a relevant area. However if an author feels that they have a topic that would be appropriate for a masterclass and have recognised expertise in the field, the author should contact Karen Beeton (contact details below) before submitting the paper to ascertain that the proposed topic and content will be suitable and meets requirements. Opinion papers should be submitted as a Professional Issue. The article should be a maximum of 4000 words in length excluding references. An abstract should precede the main body of the article and provide an overview of the contents. This should be presented using the following sub headings: **Introduction** (setting the scene and introducing the topic) **Purpose** (what is the purpose/aim of the masterclass, what is going to be discussed) **Implications** (for practice) The introduction should review the relevant literature and put the subject matter into context. The main body of the text will describe the technique or approach in detail. Clinical indications and contraindications should be outlined where relevant. Illustrations are considered an essential part of the Masterclass in order

to fully inform the reader and a minimum of six photographs or line drawings are required. The topic should have clear application to clinical or professional practice. This sets a masterclass apart from a narrative review paper.

Case studies are often very valuable in order to illustrate the theoretical principles discussed within the masterclass. If the word limit precludes the inclusion of a case study within the body of the masterclass then a case study can be submitted as a separate paper alongside the masterclass and will be published on-line only.

In addition, authors may wish to include supplementary material which will be available online only. This may include, for example, podcasts, videoclips, animation sequences, high-resolution colour images, author reflections on the masterclass, and background datasets. - please visit the Guide for Authors for further details at <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/musculoskeletal-science-and-practice>

The masterclass should be submitted electronically via the journal website <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/musculoskeletal-science-and-practice>

All masterclasses are assessed by two reviewers.

For further information please contact:

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### **Submission checklist**

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

#### **Ensure that the following items are present:**

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

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All necessary files have been uploaded:

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- Include keywords
- All figures (include relevant captions)
- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
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*Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files* (where applicable)

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Further considerations

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- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
- A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
- Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

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## **BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

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### Reporting guidelines

To improve the quality of reporting of other categories of research, *Musculoskeletal Science and Practice* supports the initiatives available through the EQUATOR Network (Enhancing the Quality and Transparency Of health Research) which houses a database of all reporting guidelines for health research (<http://www.equator-network.org>).

All authors of research articles and reviews are required to complete and submit a brief [Author Checklist](#) along with a checklist from the appropriate reporting guideline together with your paper as a guide to the editors and reviewers of your paper. The Author Checklist is available at [http://cdn.elsevier.com/promis\\_misc/checklist\(3\).doc](http://cdn.elsevier.com/promis_misc/checklist(3).doc) and the checklist for each reporting guideline can be found on the EQUATOR website.

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Qualitative researchers might wish to consult the guideline listed below: Qualitative studies - COREQ - Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative research <http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/coreq/>

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Use of the TIDieR checklist can guide authors to describe their interventions better and, consequently, help clinicians and journal readers to use the interventions, and researchers to synthesise and replicate the evidence. *Musculoskeletal Science and Practice* will request authors to incorporate the TIDieR statement into their manuscript processing workflow. Submitting authors are encouraged to use the TIDieR checklist to ensure that any interventions described in their manuscript are fully reported. However, submitting authors will not be required to submit the checklist. Authors are requested to refer further to the recent Editorial - "The TIDieR checklist will benefit the physiotherapy profession", [http://www.manualtherapyjournal.com/article/S1356-689X\(16\)30022-4/fulltext](http://www.manualtherapyjournal.com/article/S1356-689X(16)30022-4/fulltext).

For Mixed Methods Research, authors should use: GRAMM -Good Reporting of A Mixed Methods Study by OCathain et al. (2008).

Describe the justification for using a mixed methods approach to the research question.

Describe the design in terms of purpose ,priority and sequence of methods.

Describe each methods in terms of sampling, data collection and analysis.

Describe where integration has occurred , how it has occurred and who has participated in it.

Describe any limitation of one method associated with the presence of the other method.

Describe any insights gained from mixing or integrating methods.

#### *Registration of clinical trials*

*Musculoskeletal Science and Practice* has adopted the proposal from the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) (see Editorial: Clinical trial registration in physiotherapy journals: Recommendations from the International Society of Physiotherapy Journal Editors), which require, as a condition of consideration for publication of clinical trials, registration in a public trials registry.

**Trials must be registered before any patient enrolment.** The clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article. For this purpose, a clinical trial is defined as any research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to intervention or comparison groups to study the cause and effect relationship between a medical intervention and a health outcome. Studies designed for other purposes, such as to study pharmacokinetics or major toxicity (e.g. phase I trials) would be exempt. Further information can be found at <http://www.icmje.org>. Authors will be asked to state the trial registration number during the submission system as well as at the end of the manuscript file.

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