The EQUATOR Network
Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research

Reporting your randomised trial: CONSORT 2010 and other reporting guidelines
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Welcome

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Learning objectives

- **Understand the importance of transparency and accuracy in reporting health research and be familiar with common deficiencies in the reporting of RCTs in medical journals and in the media**

- **Understand the key concepts of reporting guidelines and their use in particular CONSORT 2010 for reporting RCTs and CONSORT for abstracts**

- **Appreciate the benefits of using reporting guidelines when preparing manuscripts for journals**

- **Learn about the EQUATOR Network and its online resources**

Why was EQUATOR set up?

- **Reporting of much health research is not adequate**
- **There are good consensus reporting guidelines (+many others) which are not being widely used**

- **International initiative - launched in June 2008**

- **'Umbrella' organisation; key stakeholders:**
  - Researchers (authors), medical writers
  - Editors & peer reviewers of general and specialty journals
  - Developers of reporting guidelines
  - Research funders
  - Everyone interested in improving the quality of research publications and of research itself

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Major goals of EQUATOR

- **Provide a comprehensive, up-to-date internet-based resource centre of tools and other materials related to health research reporting**

- **Promote the use of reporting guidelines and other good research reporting practices through an education and training programme**

- **Assist in the development, dissemination and implementation of robust reporting guidelines**

- **Conduct regular assessments of how journals implement reporting guidelines and audits of reporting quality across the health research literature**

- **Facilitate "principles into practice" on a global scale**

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EQUATOR Steering Group

Doug Altman, Centre for Statistics in Medicine, Oxford, UK

John Hoey, University of Toronto, Canada

David Moher, Ottawa Health Research Institute, Canada

Ken Schulz, Family Health International, Chapel Hill, USA

Ana Marušić, Dept of Research in Biomedicine and Health, University of Split, Croatia.

EQUATOR Funding:

EQUATOR resources

- **Website:** www.equator-network.org

- **Library for Health Research reporting**
  - Catalogue and links to reporting guidelines and other guidance
- **Collections of information for:**
  - Authors
  - Journal editors/Peer reviewers
  - Developers of reporting guidelines

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Welcome to the EQUATOR Network website – the resource centre for good reporting of health research studies

Too often, good research evidence is undermined by poor quality reporting.

The EQUATOR Network is an international initiative that seeks to improve reliability and value of medical research literature by promoting transparent and accurate reporting of research studies.

Highlights

Seeking funding and support

We appeal to research funders, publishers and other organisations to support responsible research reporting. Find out how

Promote good reporting

Print and display EQUATOR leaflets

EQUATOR Newsletter

New reporting guidelines, events, and other news. **Subscribe** now

Reporting guidelines

Library for Health Research Reporting

Authors

Information for authors of research reports

Editors

Resources for journal editors and peer reviewers

Developers

Resources for developers of reporting guidelines

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Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research

Resource Centre

- **Library for health research reporting**
  - Reporting Guidelines
  - Reporting guidelines under development
  - Reporting guidelines in other research fields
  - Guidance on scientific writing
  - Guidance developed by editorial groups
  - Medical writers – additional resources
  - Research ethics, publication ethics and good practice guidelines
  - Development and maintenance of reporting guidelines
  - Editorials introducing RGs
  - Examples of guidelines for peer reviewers
  - Case studies: RG implementation
  - Examples of good research reporting

Library for health research reporting

The EQUATOR Network library currently contains:

- An introduction to reporting guidelines
- Comprehensive lists of the available reporting guidelines, listed by study type:
  - Experimental studies
  - Observational studies
  - Diagnostic accuracy studies
  - Systematic reviews
  - Qualitative research
  - Economic evaluations
  - Quality improvement studies
  - Other reporting guidelines
  - Reporting data
  - Sections of research reports
  - Specific conditions or procedures.
- Reporting guidelines under development
- Reporting guidelines in other research fields
- Guidance on scientific writing
- Guidance developed by editorial groups
- Medical writers – additional resources
- Research ethics, publication ethics and good practice guidelines
- Resources related to development and maintenance of reporting guidelines
- Editorials introducing reporting guidelines
- Guidelines for peer reviewers
- Case studies: How journals implement reporting guidelines
- Examples of good research reporting
- Useful and interesting presentations
- EQUATOR 'pick' – comments, discussion and other thought provoking articles and interesting quotes

Download the most frequently-used reporting guidelines:

- CONSORT checklist
- CONSORT flowchart
- CONSORT extensions
- STARD checklist & flowchart
- STROBE checklists
- PRISMA checklist
- PRISMA flow diagram

Download:

- Catalogue of reporting guidelines (2010)

For other useful resources see Links.

Resources for authors

The following resources will help you to produce high quality research publications:

- Planning and conducting your research
- Writing up your research
- Medical writers – additional resources
- Ethical guidelines and considerations
- Other resources

- What can I do to support the EQUATOR Network's effort

Planning and conducting your research

It is important to be aware of reporting requirements and think about reporting when you are planning and conducting your research study:

- UK National Health System Research Flowchart (tool providing resources and points for consideration for all stages of the research process: from formulating a research question to the reporting and dissemination of new findings)
- UK MRC Route Map (Medical Research Council guidance through the legal and good practice requirements when designing conducting and disseminating experimental medicine studies)

Writing up your research

A good scientific article combines clear writing style with a high standard of reporting of the research content:

- Guidance on scientific writing
- Reporting guidelines (comprehensive lists of the available guidelines appropriate to each study type)
- Examples of good research reporting (specific examples showing why and how to correctly describe important aspects of your trial or other types of research studies)

Tip: **When you finish your writing ...**
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, etc. So, before you submit your paper to a journal, try to consider whether the article is 'fit for purpose' and able to pass this future scrutiny, e.g.

Resources for editors and peer reviewers

The following resources will help you to produce high quality research publications:

- Developing a journal's policies on research reporting
- Guidance for peer reviewers
- Other resources

- Do you want to write an editorial about EQUATOR?

- What can I do to support the EQUATOR Network's effort

Developing a journal's policies on research reporting

The following resources will be useful for developing or updating a journal's policies and instructions for research reporting:

- Guidelines developed by influential editorial groups (WAME, ICMJE, etc.)
- Research ethics, publication ethics and good practice guidelines
- Reporting guidelines
- Editorials introducing reporting guidelines and new reporting policies into a journal
- Instructions to Authors (collected by the Mulford Library, University of Toledo; note that not all listed instructions provide good guidance on research reporting)

Guidance for peer reviewers

Reporting guidelines are useful tools for strengthening the peer review process. Here are a few examples of how to implement this in your journal:

- Examples of guidelines for peer reviewers

Other resources

International Congress on Peer Review and Biomedical Publication (link to materials from all congresses held so far)

Nature Peer Review Debate (22 articles of analyses and perspectives from leading scientists, publishers and other stakeholders)

Hames, I. (2007) Peer Review and Manuscript Management in Scientific Journals.

Thank you

www.equator-network.org