

Nursing Research and Clinical Innovations Symposium



Abstract Writing Tips

An abstract is a concise summary of your research study or innovation project. It should clearly convey **why the work was done, what was done, what was found, and why it matters.**

For the Nursing Research and Clinical Innovations Symposium the abstract must be within a 300-word limit.

The abstract should be structured under the following headings:

Background

Briefly outline the context for the work. Summarise what is already known about the topic and identify the gap, problem, or unmet need that prompted the research or innovation. This section should clearly set the scene but remain very concise.

Aim

State a clear, focused aim describing the purpose of the study or innovation. This may be framed as the research question you sought to answer or the clinical issue or area of practice you aimed to improve.

Method or Innovation Plan

Describe what was done and how it was done.

- For **research studies**, briefly outline the study design, participant group (if applicable), data collection methods, and approach to analysis.
- For **innovation projects**, describe the strategies implemented as part of the practice change and any evaluation methods used (e.g. audit, survey, staff feedback).

Results or Innovation Data

Summarise the key findings or outcomes.

- For **research**, include the most important results only (e.g. participant characteristics, main statistical findings, or key qualitative themes).
- For **innovations**, describe what occurred during implementation and report relevant evaluation outcomes (e.g. number of education sessions delivered, audit results, or staff feedback).

Conclusion

Present the key take-home message and overall impact of the work. The conclusion should clearly relate back to the aim and be directly supported by the results or data presented. Briefly state how the study or innovation contributes to paediatric nursing practice, including any recommendations or implications for care.

General Abstract Writing Tips

- **Stick to the word limit:** Focus on essential information only; remove unnecessary detail.
- **Be clear and concise:** Use plain language and short sentences where possible.
- **Align all sections:** Ensure the aim, methods, results, and conclusion are clearly connected.
- **Avoid references and abbreviations:** Use them only if essential and widely recognised.
- **Use past tense for completed work** and present tense for conclusions or implications.
- **Check consistency:** Numbers, outcomes, and terminology should match across sections.
- **Proofread carefully:** Spelling, grammar, and formatting errors reduce clarity and credibility.
- **All listed authors** should have an opportunity to review the abstract before submission.