

## **Author Guidelines**

- Word limits (excluding abstract, tables, figures, references) are 5000 words for original articles and 6000 for reviews. Other formats have a maximum of 2000 words. In case of exceeding limits, please consult the editors.

- The manuscript must be prepared using a .rtf, .doc, or .docx file format.

- Manuscripts must be written in English in a readily understandable style, avoiding sexist and racist language.

- The text must be single-spaced, using Arial 12.

The text is structured as follows:- Title – You do not need to include a title page in your main manuscript document because the Editorial Manager System will ask you to enter title, running head, author names, and contact information (this information will be used to automatically generate a cover page for your submission PDF, and author names will not be visible in the version sent for peer review). If you include a title page in your main manuscript document, make sure it does not identify the authors.

- Abstract - Maximum 300 words incorporating the following headings: Background; Objective; Method; Results; Conclusions; Key words. The abstract should not contain unexplained abbreviations.

- Main Text - Original research articles consist of: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Clinical Significance, References. Reviews and other formats can be organized differently.

- Tables and Figures – These should be submitted separately using a placeholder in the main text. These must be referred to using Arabic numbers in order of their appearance in the text (e.g., Figure 1, Figure 2, Table 1, Table 2, etc.).

- Acknowledgements – Describe any funding or other resources which supported the research. Non-authors who contributed to the work but do not qualify for authorship may also be mentioned, but authors must have permission from these individuals in order to include them in the acknowledgements.

- Disclosures – Authors must disclose any real or potential conflicts of interest, especially those related to commercial industry. If there are no conflicts, this must be specifically stated. Each author must complete the ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest, which will be uploaded to the manuscript submission system separately from the main text document (this document will not be visible to the reviewers). If your manuscript is accepted for publication, Information provided through this form will be used to generate the Disclosures statement for the final article. When checking article proofs, authors must confirm that the Disclosure section is complete and accurate.

- References - Use the Vancouver style with numbers in round brackets for citations within the main text and a numbered list in the Reference section.

- Statistics - Use APA guidelines for reporting statistics in articles.

- Abbreviations - All abbreviations must be spelt out on first usage and only widely recognized abbreviations will be permitted.

- Randomised Controlled Trials - The Journal recommends authors use the newest version of the CONSORT guidelines. In particular, a flow chart illustrating the progress of participants through the trial (CONSORT diagram) must be included.

- Systematic Reviews - The Journal recommends authors use the newest version of the PRISMA statement for systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

- Supplementary Material - This is encouraged, especially when authors wish to share additional information that will not fit within the manuscript word limit. Supplementary files can be uploaded during the submission process, and reviewers will be able to access this material through a link.

- Proofs - Page proofs will be sent to the corresponding author by e-mail as a PDF file.

- Registration of Clinical Trials - The Journal recommends that all clinical trials are registered in a public trials registry.

#### Peer review policy

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Ole Jakob Storebø (ojst@regionsjaelland.dk) or Sven Bölte (sven.bolte@ki.se),

Scandinavian Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychology Editorial Office

Psychiatric Research Unit, Region Zealand,

Fælledvej 6, 4200 Slagelse, Denmark