

Primary Health Care Research & Development

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PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

As primary health care continues to grow in importance in relation to the rest of health care provision, this journal provides a source of information on the growing body of knowledge concerning research and development issues in primary health care. This is the first journal aimed specifically at both researchers and practitioners in primary health care, thereby bridging the gap between the two areas. It provides a forum for the publication of international, interdisciplinary research and development in primary health care (PHC).

Aims and Scope

- to disseminate evidence, information and practice examples of PHC research and developmental activities
- to analyse and debate the meaning of evidence and ways in which practice in PHC may be developed to reflect best practice, including clinical audit, quality issues and cost-effectiveness
- to draw on and promote the use of the full range of research methods in PHC research
- to provide a forum for communication between practitioners, researchers, educators and policy-makers concerned with achieving PHC-led services worldwide
- to involve user-groups as well as PHC professionals, thus reflecting accepted views on involvement of consumers in research and policy development
- to reflect and explore the political context of health care development
- to include work concerned with all aspects of PHC including prevention, health promotion, public health, education, clinical effectiveness, organizational and management issues, quality issues and policy development

Networking

This section covers the work of research networks and other initiatives to promote collaboration or build capacity in primary care research. Articles can raise issues, inform or challenge, comment on current events, or seek collaborative partners. Articles of up to 1000 words will be subject to editorial review and published as quickly as space allows. Longer contributions will be subject to peer review, as are other papers submitted to the journal.

Short Reports

The short papers section offers the opportunity to authors to submit a paper (up to 2000 words) on issues such as a methodology, early findings, policy-relevant news and also an opportunity for early career researchers to publish reviews or smaller studies. Please contact Dr. Peter Murchie (p.murchie@abdn.ac.uk) for further information or refer to instructions for authors.

Research

Research papers (normally up to 5000 words) will be considered as those which do one or more of the following:

- Report on primary data, either quantitative or qualitative
- Offer a critical analysis of research method(s)
- Provide a critical and systematic overview of previous studies
- Provide new theoretical/conceptual insights into phenomena
- Critically inform the evidence base for practice

Development

Development papers (normally up to 5000 words) will be considered as those which do any one or more of the following:

- Report on a change in practice
- Demonstrate how evidence supports change
- Report on audit data or pilot study data
- Report on evaluation process
- Analyse policy which underpins change in practice

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