Article types

Word count reminder - Papers should be written to a maximum word count of 5000 words excluding references, tables and figures. Please check the word count and include total word count (Abstract + Main paper) on the Abstract. Any paper that is submitted with an excess of 5000 words without prior discussion with the editor, will be returned.

Primary Research (RCTs / Cohort studies/Mixed Methodology studies)

- Abstract - 400 word maximum
  - Background/rationale
  - Aim(s) & objective(s)
  - Ethics
  - Methods
  - Results
  - Conclusion
  - Keywords (up to ten) Up to ten key words that identify accurately the paper’s subject, purpose and focus (Evidence Based Midwifery must be included). These key words will be used to assist indexers in cross-indexing the article and will be published with the abstract.
  - Total word count (Abstract + Main paper – excluding tables/references)

- Main paper
  - Introduction
    State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.
  - Methods
    A brief but clear outline of the methodology, making clear the study setting, the sample, the hypothesis (where relevant) and the reason for the chosen method. For RCTs we request a CONSORT diagram (Figure) and checklist (Table). Please provide information of ethical approvals granted and particular ethical considerations in your study. Please provide details of funding, if appropriate.
  - Results
    Results should be clear and concise. Results/findings consistent with your chosen methodology. Tables and graphs may be used – see Submission Guidelines / Tables and graphs
  - Discussion
    Relate your findings to focus their relevance to midwifery practice. Also include a brief statement of limitations of the research, and implications for practice and future research.
  - Conclusion
    A concise conclusion to include implications for future practice/research
Guideline - Secondary Research (Literature reviews / Systematic reviews / Modified systematic reviews)

- **Abstract - 350 word maximum**
  - **Background/rationale**
  - **Research question**
  - **Search methods**
  - **Results**
  - **Conclusion**
  - **Keywords (up to ten)** Up to ten key words that identify accurately the paper’s subject, purpose and focus (Evidence Based Midwifery must be included). These key words will be used to assist indexers in cross-indexing the article and will be published with the abstract.
  - **Total word count** (Abstract + Main paper – excluding tables/references)
- **Main paper**
  - **Introduction**
  - **Methods**
    - A brief but clear outline of the research question (PICO or equivalent PEO or SPIDER), methodology to include search strategy, inclusion/exclusion criteria, study selection, quality appraisal, reflexivity (if applicable), use of PRISMA checklist, data extraction and analysis methods. Please provide details of funding, if appropriate.
  - **Results/Findings**
    - Results should be clear and consistent with your chosen methodology. Tables and graphs may be used – see Submission Guidelines / Tables and graphs
  - **Discussion**
    - Relate your findings to focus their relevance to midwifery practice. Also include a brief statement of limitations of the research, and implications for practice and future research.
  - **Conclusion**
    - A concise conclusion to include implications for future practice/research.
References
See Submission Guidelines / References

Acknowledgements
Should be kept to a minimum and include funder.

Funding
Please provide a statement of funding if applicable.

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Conflicts of interest
The author must disclose if they have received funding or they are working for any parties liable to bring disrepute to the RCM or where there may be a conflict of interest.