

Transition of Care Model – Preventing Readmission: Plan for Journal Article

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### **Plan for Dissemination through Journal Article**

Dissemination of the knowledge accumulated through research or evidence-based quality improvement projects is an important final step in the DNP project and essential to the advancement of evidence-based nursing practice (Curtis, Fry, Shaban, & Considine, 2016; Fineout-Overholt, Stillwell, Gallagher-Ford, & Melnyk, 2011; Hanrahan, Marlow, Aldrich, & Hiatt, 2010; Hall & Roussel, 2014). As part of the goal to achieve wide dissemination of the evidence-based intervention in the Transition of Care Model (TCM) DNP project, the impact of the project was disseminated to organizational leadership and stakeholders at affiliated skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) through a poster presentation as part of a monthly quality meeting. The poster presentation format also provides a means for disseminating the project impact at future geriatric care workshops and meetings (Williams & Cullen, 2016).

To achieve wide dissemination of the evidence-based project impact, the project lead will prepare and submit a manuscript for publication in a geriatric care journal. Publication in a relevant peer-reviewed journal ensures dissemination to a large audience. Dissemination through journal article publication achieves much broader dissemination than dissemination through posters or presentations (Hanrahan et al., 2010; Hall & Roussel, 2014). Moreover, unlike an oral presentation, dissemination through journal article publication provides a permanent, fixed record of the nursing knowledge gained through the project. The impact of the dissemination extends beyond the initial readers and subscribers of the specific issue where the article is published. Further dissemination will occur in the future as practitioners, researchers, scholars, and students access the journal article through databases and literature searches. Although preparation of a manuscript for publication in a peer reviewed journal requires considerably

more time and effort than alternative means of dissemination, it is the most impactful method of dissemination (Hall & Roussell, 2014).

### **The Journal Choice**

While publication in a journal theoretically provides the broadest possible dissemination for the project, this objective will only be met if an appropriate journal is selected for the manuscript submission. The publication type and content focus must be directly relevant to the manuscript and its topic (Fineout-Overholt et al., 2011; Hall & Roussell, 2014). Research studies are generally most appropriate for scientific research journals, while quality improvement projects, program evaluations, and evidence-based guidelines are most appropriate for specialty publications (Hanrahan et al., 2010). As this was an evidence-based quality improvement project, the most appropriate publication venue would be a specialty journal.

In selecting a specialty journal, the specialty discipline or focus of the journal should be consistent with that of the project's topic. Based on this rationale, the initial search for an appropriate specialty journal focused on geriatric care. Additional criteria included in the journal search were relevance to nursing care, relevance to nurse practitioners, history of publishing articles by advanced practice nurses, relevance to transitional care, and relevance to care in skilled nursing facilities. Other considerations in journal selection included primary focus on the U.S. health care system, institutional/organizational affiliations, indexing, and impact factor of the journal (Fineout-Overholt et al., 2011; Hall & Roussell, 2014). Other selection factors concerned the journal's policies on query letters and pre-submission approvals as well as the journal's openness to submissions from new authors and DNP capstone submissions.

An initial search led to a pool of eight geriatric specialty care journals that fit most of the criteria specified above. Two journals were eliminated based on their primary content focus on

research studies and MD and/or PhD authors. Another three journals were eliminated from consideration because they did not include a primary focus on the U.S. health care system. The choice was eventually narrowed down to two geriatric nursing journals: *Journal of Gerontological Nursing* and *Geriatric Nursing*. Both of these journals published articles highly relevant to nurse practitioners, nursing care, transitional care, geriatric care, and care in skilled nursing facilities and both journals are peer-reviewed, indexed in all major nursing and medical databases, published many articles written by advanced practice nurses, do not require pre-submission approvals, and accept submissions from new authors.

**The Selected Journal: *Geriatric Nursing***

The journal *Geriatric Nursing* was selected as the best choice for dissemination through journal article publication. *Geriatric Nursing* was preferable to *Gerontological Nursing* based on a higher impact factor in 2016 (1.145 in *Geriatric Nursing* versus 0.827 in *Gerontological Nursing*) and based on *Geriatric Nursing's* stated policy of welcoming DNP Capstone projects for submission. Moreover, the editor of *Geriatric Nursing*, wrote an article that provided valuable guidance on publishing a DNP capstone (Resnick, 2013). For these reasons, the manuscript will be prepared and submitted to *Geriatric Nursing*.

*Geriatric Nursing*, part of the Elsevier publishing group, is a peer-reviewed journal that is “written specifically for nurses and nurse practitioners” working with older adults in any care setting (Geriatric Nursing website, 2018). The journal bills itself as “a comprehensive source for clinical information and management advice relating to the care of older adults” (Geriatric Nursing website, 2018). A review of several recent issues revealed that the journal publishes a range of different types of articles including research studies (quantitative and qualitative), quality improvement interventions, evaluation studies, literature reviews, expert opinions, and

analytical articles. *Geriatric Nursing* is the official journal of several relevant specialty organizations including The American Geriatrics Society, the National Gerontological Nursing Association, Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association, and the American Assisted Living Nurses Association. The journal is indexed in CINAHL, Medline, and ISI. In 2016, *Geriatric Nursing* journal had an impact factor of 1.142.

### **Requirements for Manuscript Submission**

*Geriatric Nursing* journal provides comprehensive author guidelines at <http://www.gnjournal.com/content/authorinfo>. The editorial policies state that although the journal is “not primary a research journal”, all research studies submitted must adhere to the ethical standards of the Declaration of Helsinki. While *Geriatric Nursing* welcomes submissions of DNP capstone projects, the journal requires these authors to first review Resnick’s (2013) guidelines on publishing a DNP capstone. General manuscript guidelines for capstone submissions include IRB review and approval if applicable, use of the scientific perspective and scientific writing style, including sufficient information to allow for replication; avoidance of slang, jargon and abbreviations; writing in the third person only; and writing in the past tense (Resnick, 2013). Resnick’s (2013) guide also provides specific guidance and descriptions of paper sections (abstract, introduction, methods, participants/sample, design, intervention, measures, data analysis, tables/figures, results, discussion, limitations, and acknowledgement) and the appropriate order of composition.

Prior to submitting the manuscript, the author should review the information related to declaration of interest, authorship, and copyright. All authors are required to disclose any financial and personal relationships relevant to the manuscript. The journal does not allow for simultaneous submission. Authors must affirm that the submitted manuscript has not been

previously published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. All authors who contributed to the manuscript must be listed and their interests declared. Authors have a choice on the publication of open access articles, upon payment of a fee of \$2000.

Manuscripts are to be submitted electronically via the journal's website. Manuscripts should be composed using a word processor (e.g., Microsoft Word) with a simple layout (single column) and saved in the word processor's native format (e.g., .docx), which is then converted to .pdf format in the submission process. The article should be structured into clearly defined sections, with each subsection given a brief heading that appears on a separate line. Required subsections include introduction (providing objective, background), material and methods (with enough detail to facilitate replication), results, discussion, conclusions, and appendices. *Geriatric Nursing* uses a double-blind review process (neither the author's nor the reviewer's identity are revealed to one another), so a separate title page is required. The title page must include a concise and informative title, all author names and affiliations, and corresponding author designation with email and permanent physical address. Acknowledgements are included in the title page. Also included in the acknowledgements should be a listing of funding sources in the format provided by the guideline.

A 100-150 word abstract summarizing the main points of the article is also submitted on a separate page. In addition to the abstract, a separate "Highlights" page must be submitted (using the term highlights in the file name) that is comprised of three to five bullet points and a maximum of 85 characters, including spaces and bullet points.

The guidelines on manuscript preparation also include additional specific information regarding units of measure, formatting and labeling of tables, and illustrations, and specific requirements on file type, size, and permissions related to any graphics or artwork. There are

detailed instructions on the required referencing system. *Geriatric Nursing* using AMA Style, as specified in the *AMA Manual of Style*. This reference system indicates references by consecutive superscript Arabic numerals in the text in the order in which they appear in the text. Use of the DOI is encouraged as is the citation of underlying or relevant datasets. For web references, the journal requires citing the full URL and date of access, as well as any further information (e.g., DOI) available.

The review process takes about four to six weeks after submission. Authors will receive notification of the results of the review. Revisions may be required prior to formal acceptance. Upon acceptance for publication, authors enter into a formal publishing agreement with the journal and make their choices regarding open access.

## References

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