



Journal of Acute Care Occupational Therapy

Author & Manuscript Guidelines

About the Journal

The Journal of Acute Care Occupational Therapy is a twice-yearly open-access publication whose mission is to provide a platform for evidence related to occupational therapy in acute care settings. It is the goal of the journal to promote occupational therapy's role, scope, and value in acute care by providing its audience with timely, relevant, and evidence-based content regarding the profession's unique contributions.

Our Focus

Content areas of interest for the journal include leadership, practice, and education related to occupational therapy in acute care.

Manuscript Types

Authors may submit original research (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods), practice guidelines or quality improvement projects, case studies, scholarly educational topics, or scoping reviews. See *Manuscript Type Overview* below for further details.

Human Subject Protection

All submitted manuscripts that include data or information from human subjects are required to have received approval from an institutional review board (IRB), or must provide evidence for IRB exemption. Within the methods section of the manuscript, include the IRB number and date of approval or exemption. Further, it is recommended that authors involved in research with human subjects complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) through their institution or organization.

General Manuscript Format Requirements

Text	Structure	References
12pt. Arial font	<i>Title Page:</i> title name, authors, primary author contact information	All manuscripts must follow American Psychological Association (APA) 7 th edition guidelines.
Double spacing throughout	Abstract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://apastyle.apa.org/about-apa-style
1-inch margins	<i>Level I Headers:</i> Introduction and background, methodology, results, discussion, conclusion, references, acknowledgements (if applicable)	References should include doi when possible and should have active links provided.

Manuscript Type Overview

Category	Page Limit	Abstract Word Count	Tables & Figures	References
Original Research, Quality Improvement or Practice Guideline	20-25	200	1-5	20-30
Case Study, Educational Topic	10-15	200	1-5	20-25
Scoping Review	10-15	200	1-3	20-25

Original Research

Research manuscripts should provide research findings that address a clinical problem that is valuable for occupational therapy in acute care settings. Manuscripts may involve qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods regarding effectiveness, efficiency, demographics, or safety with evaluative or interventional domains in occupational therapy.

Quality Improvement or Practice Guideline

Practice guidelines should be an original or modified guideline script that focuses on a specific clinical problem or area of occupational therapy expertise in acute care. The manuscript should provide guidance to clinical problems, optimize patient care, and facilitate interprofessional collaboration while reflecting ethical decision-making.

Quality improvement project manuscripts should provide a measurable aim or objective and are applicable to improving occupational therapy practice or client care in acute care settings. Improvements should emphasize the patient care impact.

Case Studies

Must be original, novice, or adds depth to existing knowledge. Case studies need to involve an outcome measurement (qualitative or quantitative, or both) and provide practice or research implications. Case studies need to provide sufficient description and detail of case facts and be grounded in theory or research. Case studies are highly encouraged to include a timeline of client(s) progress, process, and experience through rehabilitation.

Scholarly Education Topic

These manuscripts should include knowledge that address occupational therapy's role in education in the acute care setting. Topics can include staff training in assessments or interventions, student curriculum, or client-centered educational approaches.

Scoping Review

A comprehensive review of a large body of literature that identifies and provides insight into an existing topic. Scoping reviews help organize a topic and provide clarity to definitions or concepts for a given topic. Scoping review manuscripts should include: 1) scoping review question, 2) expertise of your reviewers and timing of review, 3) sources and processes (PRISMA, inclusion / exclusion criteria), 4) appraisal process with clear descriptions, 5) synthesis of knowledge (commonalities across the literature).

Author Checklist	Header Descriptions
<p>Required Sections / Level I Headers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Title Page: article title, authors, primary author contact information <input type="checkbox"/> Abstract (Concise. <200 words.) <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction and Background section <input type="checkbox"/> Methodology section (with IRB approval or exemption noted) <input type="checkbox"/> Results section <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion section <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusions section <input type="checkbox"/> References <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgements (if applicable) <p>Format and Supplementary Forms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Use of APA 7th edition for references and citations <input type="checkbox"/> Arial 12pt font, double-spacing, 1-inch margins <input type="checkbox"/> Use of spelling and grammar checker recommended <input type="checkbox"/> JACOT Article Submission Agreement form completed and included as separate document <input type="checkbox"/> JACOT Photo Release form included as a separate document if photos included in submission 	<p>Title page Concise and precise article title. Title case structure. Author names and primary author contact information provided.</p> <p>Abstract Concise (200 words or less) and addresses the main points of the study.</p> <p>Introduction and Background The introduction should provide the rationale for the study with relevance to other literature. This should identify the status quo, identify a conflict, and propose a hypothesis. This section should include an aim, purpose, and goal of the study, while the background supports the need for the study.</p> <p>Methodology Includes the research design, number of subjects, rationale for the sample size, subject group assignment(s), and justification for statistical analysis choices.</p> <p>Must include statements of IRB approval or exemption. Provide details on validity or coding aspects used in qualitative studies.</p> <p>Results Provide a summary of data and statistical analysis. Occupational therapy standards of statistical significance should be an alpha level of $p < .05$.</p> <p>In qualitative studies, clearly state themes with supportive quotes.</p> <p>Discussion Thoroughly describes the implication of the results to occupational therapy's role, considerations, and clinical relevance in acute care settings within the context of the issue(s) described in the introduction.</p> <p>Describe limitations with the study and goals for future research.</p> <p>Conclusion This should be a concise and synthesized summary of the study, its results, and its implications to acute care occupational therapy.</p>