

## MIDIRS Midwifery Digest

### Guidelines for authors of original articles

#### Introduction

MIDIRS Midwifery Digest welcomes any contributions that will advance knowledge or encourage debate about midwifery and childbirth, thereby contributing to the improvement of maternity care. All material submitted for publication must be submitted exclusively to *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest*.

These are general guidelines about the overall presentation and style of any original article submitted for publication. Where the article is based on research studies, the content and layout will be agreed through discussion with the author and editor once a first draft has been submitted.

#### Length

The length of any original article should be approximately 3000 words. Where the paper includes explanations about complex research methodologies or tables of results, a greater word allowance might be agreed. Material accepted for publication will be edited but original authors can usually see final versions of the paper before publication.

#### Illustrations and photographs

Tables and illustrations should be submitted separately from the text of the paper, together with the legend or caption. Tables should be simple and clear. Photos can be emailed to us as a high resolution jpg format. If you prefer to send a hard copy please ensure that the photos are of good quality and we may be able to scan it in. Where photos have been obtained in the clinical setting, or by the author, written consent of the subject(s) must be provided prior to publication. A letter from the subject(s) giving consent is sufficient.

MIDIRS is always keen to receive photographs to illustrate the article. These should be in colour, and should be sharp and of good contrast. MIDIRS can crop the photographs as required. All photographs can be returned after publication.

#### References

The accuracy of the references is the responsibility of the author. **Full and accurate information MUST be given for ALL sources mentioned in the text.**

Always give a reference to a primary source, where the research etc was first published. A reference to published research eg in a newspaper article, is not adequate.

Only use a web page as a reference if the article can be accessed from there in full and if this is the only format where the article is available. We would prefer a reference from a published source if it is available.

If you do use a web address for a reference, always check that it is an original source and that it is still current. Include author, title, publisher and date as in a reference to a printed publication. Date your reference with the date you last accessed the article. **Remember web addresses can change and vanish.**

**Please note that from September 2003, we will use the *Harvard* style of referencing** where the author is named in the text and then a full list of citation is given in alphabetical order at the end. Please see the additional paper about referencing for specific guidance. If you have any problems with references, please contact the information section on 0117-907 7588/7590/7593 or e-mail: [info@midirs.org](mailto:info@midirs.org)

#### Format

The article should be typed on single sided A4 paper, using one-and-a-half line spacing in font Times New Roman, point 12. One copy is sufficient. In addition, if you are able, please supply your article on disk or email it as a Word attachment to [editor@midirs.org](mailto:editor@midirs.org)

We can accept IBM compatible disks, preferably produced using Word for Windows. Please say which word processing package you have used, and supply a word count (excluding abstract and references). If you have any queries, please contact Val Dickens (0117 9077595) or Ann Smythe on 0117 9077583 or email [editor@midirs.org](mailto:editor@midirs.org).

Make sure you include your name, full title, and job/appointment at the time of writing. Please also include a current address (including telephone and fax numbers) for correspondence.

### **Abstract**

Please include a 200-word abstract of your paper. This should be clear and concise. It may take the form of a structured abstract, an unstructured summary, or may list up to five key message points.

### **Copyright**

MIDIRS holds copyright of all original articles published in the *MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* but MIDIRS is willing to discuss copyright being reassigned to original authors where this is requested

### **Conflict of interest**

Please make explicit any potential conflict of interest which might have biased the work. This could be financial, personal, political or academic. If you are unclear whether this might be the case, please contact the editor of the *Digest*, Sally Marchant, on 0117 9077589.

### **Reference to previous published work on a similar topic**

If you have written papers for other journals that are on a similar line, please make reference to these and identify how it is different from the others.

### **Submission of a supplement article from a MIDIRS study day**

If the paper is from a talk at a study day, it is satisfactory to reproduce this. We do not have the facility to reproduce photographs in these articles. However, we do have limited space to reproduce graphical prompts to support your text. If your presentation is to be published elsewhere it must be different from the supplement article you present to MIDIRS and must not be included in any other conference proceedings or publications.

### **Submission**

*MIDIRS Midwifery Digest* is published quarterly at the beginning of March, June, September and December each year. Material published in the *Digest* may also appear on the Internet (<http://www.midirs.org>). The deadline for each edition is approximately three months before publication.

Please contact the editor in the first instance to discuss the article prior to submission.

Articles should be submitted to: The Editor, MIDIRS Midwifery Digest, 9 Elmdale Road, Bristol BS8 1SL. Tel: 0117 925 1791, Fax: 0117 925 1792. E-mail: [editor@midirs.org](mailto:editor@midirs.org)

Thank you for considering publication in MIDIRS, we look forward to working with you.

**Sally Marchant** (Editor), **Val Dickens** (Copy Editor), **Ann Smythe** (Publishing officer)

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