JWOCN Manuscript Preparation Checklist: Original Research Report
(involving human subjects)
(NOTE: JWOCN bases its style for reporting original research on the IMDR format (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion). For additional guidance, view the "Publishing Your Research in the Journal "video posted on our webpage under the Videos tab: https://journals.lww.com/jwocnonline/Pages/videogallery.aspx)

Title/ Title Page:
Description of study: If possible include overall study design such as …: A Randomized Controlled Trial, or :A Case-Control Study, etc.

- All Author Names, Credentials, and Institutions
- Corresponding author: provide physical address, email address

Abstract (JWOCN requires a structured abstract with the following subheads, length should be around 250 words)
Purpose: state main purpose of undertaking project in 1 sentence
Design: describe overall study design in 1 phrase
Subjects and Setting: describe participants and study setting in 1-2 sentences
Methods: describe basic study procedures and key inferential statistical analyses (quantitative studies) or main methods used to analyze qualitative materials in 3-5 sentences
Results: describe most important study findings in 3-5 sentences
Conclusions: describe 1-2 most important points readers should remember having read your study in full
Key Terms: list key terms (HINT: use key terms used when searching literature for your introduction and discussion, include MESH terms whenever possible)

Introduction (3-5 paragraphs)

- Relevance to practice, background/significance with appropriate references, clinical relevance of study: set the stage for the relevance of your study in no more than 3-5 paragraphs, include most current references, do not include extended literature reviews such as those required for an academic dissertation or thesis
- Purpose statement, study aims or research questions: the last paragraph of your introduction **must** state your overall study purpose in 1 sentence; this statement may be identical to or consistent with the statement of purpose in your abstract. Follow this with specific aims or research questions; ALL aims or research questions must be addressed in your methods, data analysis section, results and discussion; studies involving patients or clinical interventions should follow a PICO (Patient, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome) or similar format **if possible**

Methods: (*around* 5 pages)

- Overall study design: describe your overall research design at the beginning of your methods section in 1 sentence; this statement must be consistent with the study design identified in your structured abstract
- Sample and setting: describe your target population (who you wish to apply findings to), how you identified and recruited subjects/participants (purposive, convenience sampling, random selection of participants based on zip code, etc.) tell readers how you recruited subjects (during patient interactions, email, online announcements), and your inclusion and exclusion criteria. Describe your study setting including the health care setting and community where data were collection; identify the country and region of data collection - this applies to all studies including those set in the United States. Do not include describe your sample here (mean age, etc.), place these data in your **Results** section.
- Ethical acknowledgment: JWOCN adheres to COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) recommendations for this statement, **ALL studies that involve human subjects must have a statement similar to the following**… "Study procedures were reviewed and approved by the _____ IRB or Human Ethics Committee, approval number ____. You must identify the institution, university or facility that reviewed your study procedures. **A similar statement must be included even if your study was reviewed and deemed exempt from individual consent.** In this is the case, include a statement that reads something like this… "Study procedures were reviewed by the ____ IRB/ Human Ethics Committee and deemed exempt from individual informed consent (Provide date).
- Instruments: describe all instruments used for data collection, tell readers the name of the instrument, why you used it (e.g. … "The SF36v2 Health Survey was used to measure health related quality of life...)." Describe the length of the instrument (how many items), who completed the instrument(s) (i.e., participants, nursing staff, investigators), who administed the instruments(s) (i.e., data collectors, etc.), and whether staff, data collectors or investigators underwent training to aid with inter-rater reliability when completing the instrument. Tell readers how the instrument is scored, and the meaning of scores (does a higher score indicate a positive or negative outcome), describe any cut points used on your study . Tell readers whether the instrument has been validated, provide references for prior validation of the instrument and psychometric properties. Describe any additional validation procedures you completed during data collection such as cognitive preptesting, measurement of internal consistency, etc. Acknowledge all instruments used that have not been validated, they can be described as "developed for purposes of this study" and "not subjected to evaluation formal validation procedures."
- Study Procedures: describe the steps or protocol you followed for data collection, include training for data collectors or staff, instructions to participants, duration of data collection periods and timeline. Describe participants visits for data collection (i.e., baseline evaluation, visit 1, visit 2, measurement of outcomes, follow up visit, etc.). Describe any study end points (e.g. occurrence of pressure injury), and procedures for enhancing subject adherence to study protocol.
- Outcome Measures**:** Describe study outcomes including the main outcome measure and secondary outcomes along with how you measured these

outcomes. This information may be placed in a separate subheading or incorporated in your Study Procedures subhead.

Data Analysis (around 1-3 paragraphs)

- Describe how you analyzed quantitative data, including all univariate and multivariate inferential statistical tests. Tell readers the p value you used to determine statistical significance. Identify the software program and version used for data analysis (e.g. SPSS, DAS etc.; include software manufacturer name, and corporate location.) Describe the methods used for qualitative data analysis, including procedures for identifying themes or similar constructs, any software used in this analysis, and audit trail ensuring quality of analyses. Your data analysis section must address analyses used to address all study aims or answer all research questions posed in the final paragraph of your Introduction.
- **Whenever possible** consult the statistician who aided with your data analysis when writing this section.

Results (around 1-3 manuscript pages)

- Describe your sample population, include a table summarizing demographic and pertinent clinical characteristics of your study sample; add place a call out in your narrative for each table at the end of the first sentence that refers to the table or figure and place all tables and figures at the end of your manuscript, following the refences; include a graph of the CONSORT flow diagram that shows study enrollment, allocation, follow-up, analysis); (Editorial Manager allows inclusion of separate files for figures of larger size (≥2 MB).
- Organize your results section around the study aims or research questions stated in the final paragraph of your Introduction.
- Remind readers of the meaning of various instrument scores as indicated; do not discuss clinical implications in your Results section; it belongs in your discussion section.

Discussion (around 2-4 manuscript pages)

- Summarize major study findings in a brief introductory paragraph, and tell readers what your findings add to scientific and/or clinical knowledge in the area you investigated.
- Compare findings of your study to findings of prior studies: be sure to include the most recent published studies. Briefly speculate why your findings are similar to or differ from findings of other studies.
- Strengths/Limitations: you are encouraged to describe strengths of your study; describe limitations of your study (threats to external validity or potential sources of bias).

Conclusions (1 paragraph)

- Describe clinical and research implications by summarizing the 2 to 3 most important points readers should remember having read your research project description.