

JWOCN Manuscript Preparation Checklist: Clinical Challenges Article

Our Clinical Challenges Section is designed to provide authors with a platform to publish individual cases or multiple case series that report assessment and management of an unusual or rare condition in wound, ostomy and continence care, to illustrate a novel or newer approach to assessment and management of prevalent conditions in our specialty practice, or to report a novel approach to practice such as patient or staff education.

(We **strongly** suggest reviewing the “Publishing Your Clinical Challenges Feature Article” video posted on our webpage under the Videos tab:

<https://journals.lww.com/jwocnonline/Pages/videogallery.aspx>)

Title/ Title Page:

- Identify clinical challenge or underlying condition, if possible place a colon “:” and identify your article as a case study, several cases or a multiple case series (more than one case you are using to describe a clinical, pathophysiological or operational aspects of a disease, treatment or diagnostic procedure)
- List all Author Names, Credentials, and Institutions
- **Corresponding author:** provide physical address, email address

Abstract (JWOCN requires a structured abstract with the following subheads; the length should be around 250 words)

Background: in no more than 3 sentences describe the underlying condition and challenge(s) you address in your article

Case or Cases: briefly describe the cases or multiple cases included in your article and how they address the clinical challenge described in your background

Conclusion: 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)

- Describe the clinical relevance of the underlying condition and particular challenges that led you to write this article, include appropriate references

Case or Cases (1-6 manuscript pages)

- Describe the case or cases used to illustrate the clinical challenge you focus on in your article; begin with pertinent demographic information (58 year old female with enterostomospheric fistula, 78 year old male with new ileostomy admitted to Emergency Department for dehydration and electrolyte imbalance). Include race, ethnic background or other information when pertinent to the patient’s care

- Provide a fictitious name to your patient, something like Ms. C, Mrs. D, or Mr. S; choose a letter at random – avoid providing any identifying information such as date of birth or medical record number and a brief history focusing on the underlying condition that led you to write your challenges article
- Provide a focused baseline evaluation of your patient(s) focusing on the clinical challenge you are describing, include pertinent laboratory values such as blood studies (express all laboratory values using US and international values, refer to this web page for conversion of common laboratory values: <http://www.amamanualofstyle.com/page/si-conversion-calculator>), findings from imaging studies, vascular studies, urodynamic studies, scores on pertinent instruments such as the Braden Scale for Pressure Sore Risk, Visual Analog Scale (VAS) for pain intensity, etc.
- Describe your patient(s) course of care, focusing on assessment, care and clinical decision making related to the challenge; for example if describing the challenging management of a patient with a pressure injury admitted to your acute care facility, you might describe initial diagnosis of the pressure injury, followed by topical and systemic wound care (including pharmacotherapy, nutritional support and surgical interventions), management following hospital discharge, and time to wound closure; describe any adverse events or side effects associated with interventions
- Avoid specific dates when describing care encounters; rather than stating “Mr. R was admitted January 2 2019 and surgery was performed January 5, describe his care something like this... “Mr. R was admitted to hospital with...3 days later he underwent surgery in order to...”
- Include figures whenever feasible; we strongly encourage use of figures such as color photographs illustrating an ostomy or peristomal skin, various wounds, imaging studies, findings from vascular or urodynamic testing, etc. High resolution images are strongly encouraged; lower resolution images do not reproduce well in a published article – be sure to remove all identifying data from images such as patient name, medical record number, date of birth or data image was obtained

Discussion (around 1-3 manuscript pages)

- Summarize main points reader can learn from the cases you provide, compare the innovative or novel assessment or care you provide to “standard care” used for assessing or managing patients with this condition
- Compare your outcomes to findings of previously published studies, case reports or multiple case series

Conclusions (1 paragraph)

- Summarize the 2 to 3 most important points readers should remember having read your article; avoid words such as efficacious or effective – findings from a single case study or multiple case series are not sufficient to demonstrate the

effectiveness or efficacy of an intervention or accuracy of an assessment technique