

Medical Journals for QI Reporting Manuscripts

SQUIRE 2.0-oriented publication targets for healthcare improvement work

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How to use this list

Match the manuscript to the audience, article type, scope, rigor, and setting. Use SQUIRE 2.0 to report healthcare improvement work transparently, then confirm the target journal's current author instructions before submission.

Best initial targets for many QI reports

Consider BMJ Open Quality, The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety, American Journal of Medical Quality, Journal for Healthcare Quality, Quality Management in Health Care, IJQHC Communications, Journal of Clinical Outcomes Management, or the most relevant specialty journal.

Strong QI / Quality / Patient Safety Journal Targets

Broad QI, healthcare quality, patient safety, improvement science, and care-delivery improvement outlets.

Journal	Best fit for QI authors	Why it is relevant	Live link
<u>BMJ Open Quality</u>	Completed QI projects, patient-safety projects, care-delivery improvement reports, and QI reports with practical learning.	Open-access BMJ journal that publishes research and quality improvement reports aimed at improving patient safety and healthcare outcomes; appropriate for successful and unsuccessful improvement learning when reported with SQUIRE structure.	<u>Authors</u>
<u>BMJ Quality & Safety</u>	Higher-rigor QI research, improvement science, patient safety, system-level learning, and work with broader generalizable lessons.	Leading international peer-reviewed journal in quality and safety improvement; publishes research, improvement initiatives, viewpoints, and other work relevant to reducing harm and improving care quality.	<u>Authors</u>
<u>The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety</u>	QI programs, safety initiatives, implementation lessons, innovation reports, improvement briefs, and tool tutorials.	Explicitly invites manuscripts on development, adaptation, implementation, and evaluation of strategies and practices for improving quality and safety in health care.	<u>Journal page</u>
<u>International Journal for Quality in Health Care</u>	International healthcare quality, policy, implementation, safety, outcomes, equity, and health-system performance research.	Official ISQua/Oxford journal publishing papers that address research, policy, and implementation related to healthcare quality and population/patient outcomes worldwide.	<u>Instructions</u>
<u>IJQHC Communications</u>	Practical QI reports, field action reports, care-delivery/practice improvement reports, implementation projects, and early findings.	OUP/ISQua open-access journal whose author instructions include Quality Improvement Reports and Field Action Reports; current issues include QI project short reports and care delivery/practice improvement reports.	<u>Instructions</u>
<u>American Journal of Medical Quality</u>	Medical quality, measurement, safety, equity, value-based QI, quality methods, and healthcare delivery/management improvement.	Official journal of the American College of Medical Quality; focuses on resources, processes, perspectives, ideas, strategies, and methods for improving healthcare delivery and management.	<u>Journal page</u>
<u>Journal for Healthcare Quality</u>	Healthcare quality practice, quality leadership, performance/process improvement, patient safety, and quality scholarship.	NAHQ's peer-reviewed journal features scholarly articles across the art and science of healthcare quality, including quality leadership, performance/process improvement, and quality review/accountability topics.	<u>Journal page</u>
<u>Quality Management in Health Care</u>	Quality management methods, process improvement, control charts/statistical thinking, organizational change, and management strategy.	Peer-reviewed journal focused on theoretical, technical, and strategic elements of healthcare quality management; especially relevant for work on customers, processes, statistical thinking, and organizational approaches.	<u>Journal page</u>

Journal	Best fit for QI authors	Why it is relevant	Live link
<u>Journal of Clinical Outcomes Management</u>	Practical clinical QI, reports from the field, outcomes improvement, health-system innovations, and implementation examples.	Peer-reviewed journal offering practical information to improve quality, safety, and value of care; submission materials specifically invite QI projects and reports from the field.	<u>Submissions</u>
<u>Journal of Patient Safety</u>	Patient safety research, system modifications, safety interventions, near misses, regulatory impacts, and real-world safety applications.	Dedicated to research advances and field applications in patient safety; publishes work on near-miss opportunities, system modifications that reduce error, and delivery changes.	<u>Journal page</u>
<u>Patient Safety</u>	QI studies, patient safety case reports, data analyses, original research, reviews, commentaries, and safety narratives.	For Authors page explicitly lists quality improvement studies among accepted submission types and seeks manuscripts that advance patient safety.	<u>For authors</u>

Specialty or Setting-Specific QI Options

Use these when the clinical area, care setting, learner group, or professional discipline is central to the manuscript.

Journal	Best fit for QI authors	Why it is relevant	Live link
<u>Pediatric Quality & Safety</u>	Pediatric QI, pediatric patient safety, child-health improvement projects, collaborative/network QI, and QI education.	International, peer-reviewed, open-access journal dedicated to disseminating quality improvement and patient safety initiatives that affect children from newborn to young adulthood.	<u>Journal page</u>
<u>Hospital Pediatrics</u>	Pediatric inpatient QI, pediatric hospital medicine, care-delivery redesign, and hospital-based improvement work.	AAP journal whose author instructions list quality improvement reports among article types relevant to the care of hospitalized children.	<u>Author instructions</u>
<u>Journal of Hospital Medicine</u>	Hospital medicine QI, quality/safety/value initiatives, care-delivery innovation, and acute or post-acute improvement work.	Author guidance describes article formats for research, healthcare value, and care-delivery innovation; notes that focused single-site QI may fit selected JHM article formats.	<u>Author guidelines</u>
<u>Annals of Family Medicine</u>	Primary care QI, practice redesign, access, equity, implementation in practice, and care-delivery improvement.	Welcomes work that contributes new knowledge to improving health and primary care; instructions include explicit QI guidance for local problem, goals, context, setting, and quality domains.	<u>For authors</u>
<u>Clinical Diabetes (American Diabetes Association)</u>	Diabetes-focused QI reports, practice transformation, primary care/endocrinology clinics, and population-health diabetes improvement.	ADA's Clinical Diabetes publishes Quality Improvement Success Stories that highlight programs and clinics improving quality of care for people with diabetes or related conditions.	<u>QI Success Stories</u>
<u>The Journal of Pediatrics</u>	Pediatric QI studies with strong methods, broad specialty relevance, and completed reporting-guideline checklists.	Requires completed checklists for applicable reporting guidelines, including SQUIRE for quality improvement studies, making it a strong fit for pediatric QI with rigorous reporting.	<u>Reporting guidelines</u>
<u>Journal of Nursing Care Quality</u>	Nursing care quality, interprofessional QI, nursing-sensitive outcomes, implementation, and care-delivery quality.	Manuscript guidance encourages appropriate reporting guidelines and specifically names SQUIRE for QI projects; useful for nursing-led or nursing-relevant QI scholarship.	<u>Guidance PDF</u>
<u>Journal of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing</u>	QI reports in wound, ostomy, continence, pressure injury, nursing practice, and clinical care delivery.	Provides a manuscript preparation checklist specifically for QI reports, including title, QI model/change model, intervention, measures, and results expectations.	<u>QI checklist PDF</u>

Journal	Best fit for QI authors	Why it is relevant	Live link
<u>Academic Medicine</u>	Educational QI, QIPS education, curriculum improvement, academic health system improvement, and health-professions education scholarship.	AAMC journal addressing medical and health professions education, health care and systems, leadership, and policy; relevant when improvement work is educational or academic-medicine centered.	<u>Author guidelines</u>
<u>Journal of Graduate Medical Education</u>	Residency/fellowship QI, QIPS education, clinical learning environment improvement, and GME scholarship.	ACGME open-access peer-reviewed journal for graduate medical education scholarship; has highlighted SQUIRE as a scholarly approach to QI in GME.	<u>Author resources</u>
<u>MedEdPORTAL</u>	Peer-reviewed educational QI curricula, QIPS teaching tools, faculty-development materials, and reusable educational resources.	AAMC open-access journal of teaching and learning resources; useful when the product is a complete, implemented, evaluated educational module or curriculum rather than a traditional QI manuscript.	<u>Author center</u>

Health Services, Implementation, and Care Delivery Journals

Use these when the work has stronger research design, implementation-science framing, multi-site relevance, or care-delivery leadership implications.

Journal	Best fit for QI authors	Why it is relevant	Live link
<u>BMC Health Services Research</u>	Health system quality/safety, care delivery, access, governance, financing, workforce, digital health, and implementation of reform.	Open-access peer-reviewed journal considering health services research broadly, with special focus areas including health-system quality and safety, healthcare delivery, access, and implementation.	<u>Aims & scope</u>
<u>Implementation Science</u>	Rigorous implementation research, implementation strategies, uptake of evidence, economic evaluation, theory-informed implementation, and de-implementation.	Publishes the scientific study of methods to promote uptake of research findings into routine healthcare practice, organizational, and policy contexts; best for implementation science, not simple local QI reports.	<u>Aims & scope</u>
<u>Implementation Science Communications</u>	More inclusive implementation studies, smaller or narrower implementation work, implementation protocols, process evaluation, and pragmatic uptake work.	Official companion journal to Implementation Science focused on systematic approaches that foster uptake of evidence-based practices and policies affecting care delivery and outcomes.	<u>Aims & scope</u>
<u>NEJM Catalyst Innovations in Care Delivery</u>	Care-delivery innovation, health-system redesign, leadership-facing case studies, practical implementation lessons, and scalable solutions.	Case study guidance emphasizes defining a problem, describing interventions, presenting practical solutions, and sharing what was learned for clinical leaders, executives, and clinicians.	<u>Case study guide</u>
<u>JAMA Network Open / JAMA specialty journals</u>	High-rigor QI intervention studies, trials, comparative effectiveness work, process-of-care changes, and studies with broad relevance.	JAMA Network instructions include quality improvement interventions and process-of-care changes among eligible intervention types for clinical trial study types; specialty fit depends on topic and methods.	<u>Instructions</u>

Quick Targeting Guide

A practical sorting aid before selecting a journal.

Manuscript profile	Start with these outlets	Before submission, check
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Typical local QI report	BMJ Open Quality; Joint Commission Journal; IJQHC Communications; JCOM; Journal for Healthcare Quality; specialty journal	Article type, word count, required SQUIRE checklist, ethics language, data display, and scope.
Patient safety or reliability-focused project	Journal of Patient Safety; Patient Safety; Joint Commission Journal; BMJ Quality & Safety if broadly generalizable	Whether the manuscript demonstrates system learning, not just pre/post outcome change.
Pediatric, hospital, nursing, wound/ostomy, family medicine, diabetes, or education-focused QI	Pediatric Quality & Safety; Hospital Pediatrics; JHM; JNCQ; JWOCN; Annals of Family Medicine; Clinical Diabetes (ADA); Academic Medicine; JGME; MedEdPORTAL	Specialty relevance, audience, accepted formats, and whether the output is a manuscript or educational resource.
Rigorous multi-site or research-oriented improvement study	BMJ Quality & Safety; IJQHC; BMC Health Services Research; JAMA Network Open/specialty journals	Study design, comparator, statistical methods, transferability, reporting guideline requirements, and research registration if applicable.
Implementation-science study	Implementation Science; Implementation Science Communications; BMC Health Services Research	Theory/framework use, implementation outcomes, process evaluation, implementation strategy specification, and generalizability.
Care-delivery innovation for leaders	NEJM Catalyst Innovations in Care Delivery; Joint Commission Journal; JHM; JCOM	Clear problem, intervention, implementation story, operational lessons, scalability, and practical takeaways.

References and Live Links

Links are cleaned of tracking parameters and point to official journal, publisher, society, or indexed author-information pages. Always confirm requirements immediately before submission because article types and instructions change.

1. SQUIRE 2.0 guidelines. [Official SQUIRE page](#)
2. BMJ Open Quality. [Authors](#)
3. BMJ Quality & Safety. [Authors](#)
4. The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety. [Journal page](#)
5. International Journal for Quality in Health Care. [Instructions](#)
6. IJQHC Communications. [Instructions](#)
7. American Journal of Medical Quality. [Journal page](#)
8. Journal for Healthcare Quality. [Journal page](#)
9. Quality Management in Health Care. [Journal page](#)
10. Journal of Clinical Outcomes Management. [Submissions](#)
11. Journal of Patient Safety. [Journal page](#)
12. Patient Safety. [For authors](#)
13. Pediatric Quality & Safety. [Journal page](#)
14. Hospital Pediatrics. [Author instructions](#)
15. Journal of Hospital Medicine. [Author guidelines](#)
16. Annals of Family Medicine. [For authors](#)
17. Clinical Diabetes (American Diabetes Association). [QI Success Stories](#)
18. The Journal of Pediatrics. [Reporting guidelines](#)
19. Journal of Nursing Care Quality. [Guidance PDF](#)
20. Journal of Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing. [QI checklist PDF](#)
21. Academic Medicine. [Author guidelines](#)
22. Journal of Graduate Medical Education. [Author resources](#)
23. MedEdPORTAL. [Author center](#)
24. BMC Health Services Research. [Aims & scope](#)
25. Implementation Science. [Aims & scope](#)
26. Implementation Science Communications. [Aims & scope](#)
27. NEJM Catalyst Innovations in Care Delivery. [Case study guide](#)
28. JAMA Network Open / JAMA specialty journals. [Instructions](#)

Note: Some publisher pages may block automated crawlers or require cookies but remain accessible in a standard browser. Links were selected from live publisher, society, or journal pages/search records available on the verification date above.

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