

## Clinical Practice Reports

The thematic issue on health information technology and health care economics will include manuscripts that describe clinical practice improvements (eg, patient outcomes, implementation of preventive or patient-care interventions, improved pay, additional staff) that were made possible using point-of-care data collected as part of routine practice.

Clinical Practice Reports should describe the clinical problem, the environment in which the problem existed, the clinical data that were collected and used to improve practice, the outcome of the effort, and the lessons learned.

Clinical Practice Reports must comply with the standards of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors regarding the protection of research participants, as described in the [Journal of Athletic Training Author Guidelines](#). Authors who are unfamiliar with or uncertain how these standards apply to their report can contact one of the guest editors for guidance and assistance before drafting their manuscript:

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**Abstract:** An abstract for each submission is required (300-word limit) and should include the following headings: clinical problem, environment, variables, strategy, findings, outcome, and lessons learned.

**Key Words, Word Counts, and Key Points:** Immediately after the abstract, please provide the following items.

- 2 to 3 key words or phrases that are not included in the title;
- Abstract word count (300-word limit);
- Body of manuscript word count (not counting abstract, references, tables, or figures);
- 2 to 3 key points that serve as take-home messages for readers.

**Body of Manuscript:** The body of a Clinical Practice Report should include the following headings and sections: Clinical Problem, Environment, Variables, Strategy, Findings, Outcome, and Lessons Learned.

The information below provides general guidance for Clinical Practice Reports, but the length and specifics of each section may vary based on the problem being solved and environment in which the problem exists.

### Clinical Problem (~1 paragraph)

- Describe the clinical problem that is being solved through the use of point-of-care data (eg, patient care data, patient outcomes, electronic medical records, wearable device data).
- Explain what the specific clinical problem is and how solving the problem will improve clinical practice (eg, identifying common injuries to guide injury-prevention efforts, increasing the number of staff to enhance the quality of care, estimating quality and costs to determine cost-effectiveness).
- End with a clear and concise question that will inform how the data were collected, analyzed, and used to solve the problem.

**Environment (~1–2 paragraphs)**

- Provide specific details about the environment that are relevant to the clinical problem, which may include descriptions of the clinical practice site, organization, clinician demographics, and patient population.
- Identify important stakeholders who will assist in solving the clinical problem. For example, to whom will the findings be presented to help solve the clinical problem (eg, administrators, caretakers)?

**Variables (~1–2 paragraphs)**

- Characterize the variables needed to provide the evidence required to solve the problem.
- Describe how each variable was defined for this project.

**Strategy (~3–4 paragraphs)**

- State how the variables were collected at the point of care from a system (eg, tools used) and process (eg, when and how?) standpoint.
- Cite the specific instruments used to collect the data, such as electronic medical records, wearable devices, or spreadsheet software.
- Indicate the particular processes used to enhance data collection, such as strategies to embed data collection into the natural workflow of the practice site, timing of the data collection, and who collected the data.
- Provide a brief description of how the data were analyzed.
- Offer sufficient details that other clinicians can replicate the procedures at their clinical sites, as appropriate.

**Findings (~1–2 paragraphs)**

- Summarize the data in a manner that answers the proposed clinical problem question.

**Outcome (~1–2 paragraphs)**

- Describe how the findings were used to address the local problem. For example, how were the findings presented (eg, tables, graphs, infographics) and to whom? If the findings were presented to different stakeholders, explain the different presentations and rationales.
- Communicate the outcome of the effort and how it improved clinical practice.

**Lessons Learned (~2–3 paragraphs)**

- Identify challenges encountered during the effort and how they were addressed.
- Offer 2 to 3 points of strategies, advice, or guidance for clinicians who are interested in undertaking a similar effort.

**Word Count:** The body of the manuscript should not exceed 4000 words, and no more than 30 references should be cited.

**Supplemental Content:** Authors are encouraged to submit [supplemental content](#) such as additional figures/tables, infographics, or other materials that may be of interest to readers.

**Questions:** Authors who have general questions regarding the thematic issue should contact one of the guest editors for guidance and assistance. Authors who have specific questions about the manuscript submission and review process should contact the journal office at [jat@slu.edu](mailto:jat@slu.edu).