



BJOG

An international Journal of
Obstetrics and Gynaecology

2008
Immediacy Index
1.423
(JCR® 2008)

Latest
Impact Factor
3.101
(JCR® 2008)

Why publish with BJOG?

BJOG's mission is to report the best research in women's health, from around the world.

Communicate your results rapidly. BJOG will make your work rapidly and widely accessible to the international scientific community. It

currently has the highest immediacy index (the average number of times that an article is cited in the year of publication) of any journal in the field of obstetrics and gynecology (1.423), and an impact factor of 3.101. The time from submission to first decision ranges from a few days to an average of six to eight weeks. Final acceptance to print publication is less than three months on average and online early publication in the 'Early View' issue is even quicker at less than two months. Papers are cited in PubMed within a few days of appearing in the Journal online, with a hotlink from the citation to the paper online.

Communicate your results widely. BJOG has a global impact, being available in over 7000 libraries worldwide. On average, papers published in BJOG are downloaded more than 250 times in the first month after they appear in an issue. Over 4000 Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists receive BJOG as part of their membership subscription. In 2009 we launched a new BJOG website: www.bjog.org to enable easy browsing, reading and downloading of papers. Articles published in BJOG impact not only the O&G community around the world but are also often highlighted in the national and international media. Authors may be interviewed for one of our regular BJOG podcasts*, further increasing their paper's exposure and engaging the readership with their research. Selection of a paper for inclusion in one of our annual theme issues will increase its citations by 50%.



Get high-quality feedback and assistance to improve your paper. Just as important as rapid, high-profile publication is our robust editorial process, geared towards improving your paper for publication. BJOG is owned by the RCOG but is editorially independent, ensuring that papers are refereed fairly. We make decisions based upon the majority view of at least five opinions (usually two referees and three or more editors). We have 26 specialist Editors, one of whom will be assigned to help you finalise your paper

for publication. Feedback will include not only your editor's comments but also those of the referees, and often those of other specialist editors.

Improving access and content. BJOG is constantly looking to innovate, developments include free access online from institutions in the developing world through the HINARI initiative** with the World Health Organisation. Each month, the 'Editor's choice', the 'Editor's pick of the month' and correspondences, are available free to view by anyone, and all articles become free after 12 months. Moreover, Authors can choose to pay for their manuscripts to be OnlineOpen*** (free for all to view and download) from the day of online publication. Authors have the choice to add supporting information to the web-based version of their paper and we encourage publication of background data, still images, and video clips of surgical procedures and similar material. We regularly commission commentaries on selected papers from leading authorities in the field, thus increasing their profile, and have extended this to even more papers by adding commentaries to highlight their message. To some we also attach Journal Club questions, which encourages discussion by Trainees and their mentors (to see examples of these enhancements visit www.bjog.org).

There is a lively correspondence column, which will increase your paper's citations. In addition each month an email alert containing the BJOG table of contents is distributed to over 2,500 subscribers.

We welcome papers on original research, commentaries on areas of scientific development or new hypotheses. We give priority to papers containing original data, systematic reviews and commentaries suggesting innovative approaches to women's health problems. We like to publish basic science research (as long as its relevance to clinical medicine is clear and properly explained), clinical research and public health research. The criteria for acceptance is quality rather than locality of origin. For example, in the May 2009 issue, we included papers from the USA, Switzerland, India, Peru, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy Australia, South Africa, Finland, Sweden, France, Congo, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and the UK. For selected papers, we offer technical rewriting, especially for those whose first language is not English. Our Editors can help explain technical or basic science research to make it more accessible for the general reader.

BJOG was first published in 1902 and has continued to play a leading role in the international scientific community relating to women's health ever since. The editorial team is determined to continue BJOG's proud

reputation and, indeed, is working hard to improve its global impact still further. We would welcome you to join us in this endeavour by sending us your best and most original work.



Professor Philip Steer
BJOG EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

* <http://www.bjog.org/view/0/podcasts.html>

** <http://www.who.int/hinari/en/>

*** <http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/CTA.asp>

Flow diagram for authors

Author(s) prepare manuscript

Each author approves final version of manuscript

(see the *presubmission pages*)

BJOG Editorial Office

Submit manuscript online: <http://bjog.allentrack.net/>

Corresponding Author approves files in AllenTrack once they have checked the converted files

Editorial Assistant accesses uploaded files and carries out the quality control (QC) stage.
Are all submission requirements met?

Yes

No

Editor in Chief (EIC) performs initial assessment of suitability. Does the manuscript fall outside the scope of the journal or is it clearly of poor quality? *

No

Yes

Rejected

Next column

*If the content of the manuscript is suitable for review but the standard of language is poor, the EIC will recommend that the language is improved.

(See: http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/english_language.asp)

Author makes changes as detailed in the email received from Editorial Office
e.g. upload missing copy of ethics approval

No (continued)

The EIC allocates the manuscript to an appropriate specialist Scientific Editor (see full list on p11)

Scientific Editor performs initial assessment and invites appropriate external experts to review the manuscript or rejects without review after holding a consultation session with fellow Editors, sending feedback to the Corresponding Author

Once all reviews on the paper are received the Scientific Editor consults with other Scientific Editors

Scientific Editor emails decision to Corresponding Author, including the reviews and comments from the Scientific Editors to explain the decision

Reject

Reject, with an invitation to resubmit

Accept, major revision needed

6 weeks to submit revision

Accept, minor revision needed

6 weeks to submit revision

Accept, no revision required
[Author sent links to the OnlineOpen form and the Exclusive Licence to Publish form, which need to be returned to the Wiley-Blackwell Production Office]

Scientific Editor assesses paper. Is the paper acceptable for publication?

Yes

[Author sent links to the OnlineOpen form and the Exclusive Licence to Publish form, which need to be returned to the Wiley-Blackwell Production Office]

No

further revision requested within 6 weeks

BJOG Editorial Office sends manuscript to Wiley-Blackwell Production Office (see over)

Wiley-Blackwell Production Office

Author returns a signed Exclusive Licence to Publish form (ELF) and, if applicable, a signed OnlineOpen form (OOF)

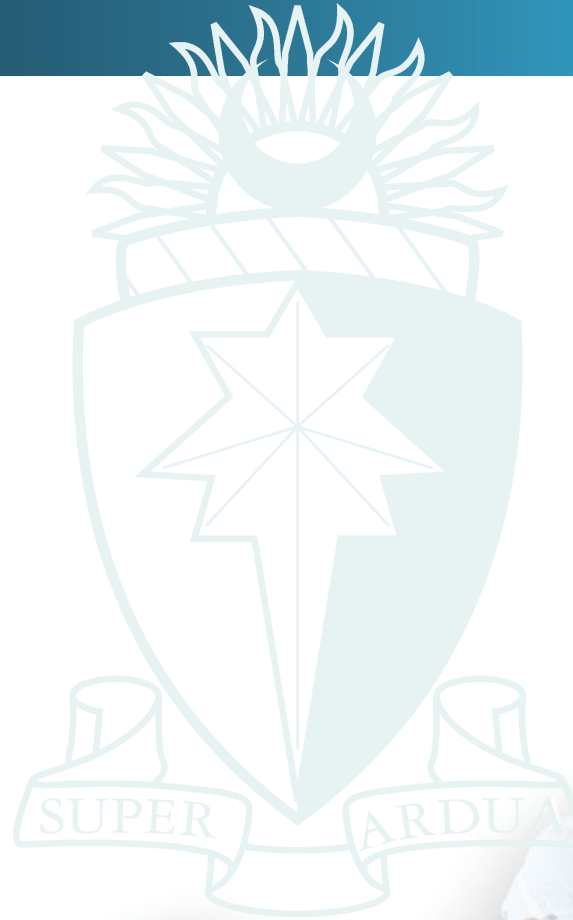
Manuscript to the typesetters

Corresponding Author receives, corrects and returns proofs

EarlyView Publication (Epub ahead of print), the article is given a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) which stays with the article

Article published in a monthly issue of BJOG; online issue available two weeks ahead of print journal distribution (first of the month)

Corresponding Authors will automatically receive a free PDF offprint by e-mail. Additional offprints can be ordered on the offprint order form, which accompanies the proofs



Presubmission

Responsibility

Authors are responsible for proofreading of the text, references, tables and figures for absolute accuracy.

English-language editing

Does the manuscript require a professional English-language editing service? See here for details:

http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/english_language.asp

Optimise

Is the manuscript written in the best possible way for it to be found by search engines? Find out how to improve your title and abstract here:

<http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/seo.asp>

Case reports

BJOG does not publish case reports unless they highlight important innovations with wide applicability, or previously unpublished complications of new techniques or medications. Over the last year we rejected 98% of case reports submitted. As you will see case reports are at the bottom of the hierarchy of evidence when different types of primary study are considered:



Confidentiality

BJOG Editors and Reviewers must not disclose information about manuscripts (including their receipt, content, status in the reviewing process, criticism by reviewers, or ultimate fate) to anyone other than the Authors, Editors and Reviewers.

Authorship

(1) Remember that to qualify for authorship an individual should meet these criteria:

- (a) substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;
- (b) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
- (c) final approval of the version to be published.

Previous submission

If the manuscript has been submitted previously to another journal, it is helpful to include the previous Editor's and Reviewers' comments with the submitted manuscript, along with the Authors' responses to those comments. Editors encourage Authors to submit these previous communications.

Each Author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content

(2) During the submission process within AllenTrack you will be asked to confirm that **all** individuals who qualify for authorship are listed.

(3) All Authors will need to confirm to the Corresponding Author that they concur with the submission of the manuscript to BJOG and that neither this manuscript nor one with substantially similar content under their authorship has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere, it is helpful for the Corresponding Author to gain written documentation to prove this.

Duplicate submission

BJOG will not consider manuscripts that are simultaneously being considered by other journals. Among the principal considerations that have led to this policy are: (1) the potential for disagreement when two (or more) journals claim the right to publish a manuscript that has been submitted simultaneously to more than one; and (2) the possibility that two or more journals will unknowingly and unnecessarily undertake the work of peer review and editing of the same manuscript, and publish the same article, which would result in redundant publication (see FAQs). Duplicate publication of original research is particularly problematic, since it can result in inadvertent double counting or inappropriate weighting of the results of a single study, which distorts the available evidence.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is scientific misconduct. Office for Research Integrity (ORI), USA considers plagiarism to include both the theft or misappropriation of intellectual property and the substantial unattributed textual copying of another's work. If plagiarism is discovered in a submitted paper then BJOG follows the COPE flowcharts for dealing with such situations.

Transparency

When submitting a paper, the Author must always make a full statement in the cover letter about all submissions that might be regarded as redundant or duplicate publication of the same or very similar work. The Author must alert the Editor if the manuscript includes subjects about which the Authors have published a previous report or have submitted a related report to another publication. Any such report must be referred to and referenced in the new paper. Copies of such material should be included with the submitted paper to help the Editor decide how to handle the matter.

Contributorship

Contributors who do not qualify for authorship should be included in the Acknowledgements section. For example, medical writers must be included in the Acknowledgements section.

Supporting information

Some material (e.g. tables, figures and videos) can be treated as supporting information, to be published in the online version only. Supporting information must be important, ancillary information that is relevant to the parent article but which does not or cannot appear in the printed edition of the journal.

<http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/suppmat.asp>

HOW SHOULD SUPPORTING INFORMATION BE SUPPLIED?

1. Supporting information should be sent as individual files clearly labelled as such (e.g SuppMatTable1; SuppMatFig1; SuppMatVideo1). It should **not** be supplied within the main article document.
2. References within Suppmat tables/figures should have their own separate reference list and not be part of the main article in any way. This should be supplied with the Suppmat tables/figures.
3. When citing the supporting information within the text it should be in the format of (Table S1; Figure S1)
4. Legends must be supplied for each type of Suppmat supplied

Finally, it is important to note that Suppmat material is published exactly as received. It is not edited or styled in any way so the Authors should ensure that all the material is correct and are happy for it to appear as supplied.

Patient consent

Patients have a right to privacy that should not be infringed without informed consent. Complete anonymity is difficult to achieve and informed consent should be obtained if there is any doubt. The patient consent forms should not be submitted to BJOG but Authors must confirm that they have gained patient consent to publish. There is a form available in the BJOG Instructions for Authors.

Obligation to publish negative studies

Editors will consider seriously for publication any carefully done study of an important question, relevant to BJOG readers, whether the results are negative (that is, convincingly allow the null hypothesis to be accepted) or positive (that is, allow the null hypothesis to be rejected). Failure to submit or publish negative studies, in particular, contributes to publication bias.

Essential sections, that must be included in the manuscript:

Acknowledgements
Disclosure of interests
Contribution to authorship
Details of ethics approval; and
Funding
References

Acknowledgements

Include, for example, funding for OnlineOpen publication, or funding for writing or editorial assistance also include contributors who do not qualify as Authors, with their contribution described.

Disclosure of interests

These include relevant financial (for example patent ownership, stock ownership, consultancies, speaker's fees), personal, political, intellectual or religious interests. Please note that a conflict of interest should not prevent someone from being listed as an Author if they qualify for authorship. If there is doubt about whether conflicts are relevant or significant, it is prudent to disclose.

Contribution to authorship

A paragraph explaining each Author's contribution.

References

Although references to review articles can be an efficient way of guiding readers to a body of literature, review articles do not

always reflect original work accurately. Authors should, therefore, include direct references to original research sources whenever possible.

Authors are responsible for checking that none of the references cite retracted articles except in the context of referring to the retraction.

Details of ethics approval

Any reports of studies or trials involving human or animal subjects, or medical records should contain a statement, that the procedures of the study received ethics approval from the relevant regional or institutional ethics committee responsible for human experimentation or complied with regulations governing experimentation using animals. The date of approval, name of committee or IRB and reference number must be supplied. If no ethics approval was received please explain why, and include an explanation as to how the study adhered to the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki

<http://www.wma.net/c/policy/b3.htm>. Authors may wish to include statements to confirm that trials conformed to Good Clinical Practice (for example, US Food and Drug Administration Good Clinical Practice in FDA-Regulated Clinical Trials; or, UK Medicines Research Council Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice in Clinical Trials).

Funding

Funding, for example by a commercial company, charity or government department, should be stated here.

IN ADDITION TO THE BJOG INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS, PLEASE ALSO REFER TO THE BJOG EDITORIAL POLICIES: <http://www.bjog.org/view/0/editorialPolicy.html>

Competing interests

When Authors submit a manuscript, whether an article or a letter, they are responsible for disclosing their competing interests, in the 'Disclosure of Interests' section. We acknowledge that most people have a variety of different interests which could potentially compete with each other. These competing interests should be visible to our readers and we therefore request full disclosure.

A selection of manuscript categories

Randomised controlled trials (RCT)

Randomised controlled trials require (a) a copy of the ethics approval (or an explanation as to why ethics approval was not received), (b) a CONSORT flowchart (submitted as Figure 1) and checklist (for Editor and Reviewer reference only): <http://www.consort-statement.org/> and (c) a copy of the original protocol upon which the trial was based. Additionally, the clinical trial registration should be included along with the name of the trial at the end of the abstract. Clinical trials should be registered in free, public clinical trial registries (for example, <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>, <http://www.ifpma.org/clinicaltrials/>, <http://www.isrctn.org>, <http://www.actr.org.au>, <http://www.umin.ac.jp/ctr/index/htm>, <http://www.trialregister.nl>) before the onset of patient enrolment. FAQs about Clinical Trial Registration are available here from the ICMJE: http://www.icmje.org/faq_clinical.html

Obligation to register clinical trials

BJOG requires, as a condition of consideration for publication, registration in a public trials registry.

Systematic review

A PRISMA (previously QUOROM) statement checklist is required for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: <http://www.prisma-statement.org/index.htm>. Systematic reviews are welcome. They should be critical assessments of current evidence covering a broad range of topics of concern to those working in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology. Systematic reviews should be 4000-5000 words.

A systematic literature review is a means of identifying, evaluating and interpreting all available research relevant to a particular research question, or topic area, or phenomenon of interest. Individual studies contributing to a systematic review are called *primary* studies; a systematic review is a *secondary* study.

N.B. For advice on writing systematic reviews consult: The Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook:

<http://www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook>

Meta-analysis of observational studies

A MOOSE statement is required for meta-analysis of observational studies:

<http://www.equator-network.org/index.aspx?o=1052>

Diagnostic evaluations

A STARD flow diagram and checklist are required for manuscripts reporting results of evaluations of diagnostic tests:

<http://www.stard-statement.org/>

FOR A FULL LIST OF MANUSCRIPT TYPES GO TO BJOG INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS:

<http://www.bjog.org/view/0/authorInformation.html>

LINKS TO ALL THE REPORTING GUIDELINES CAN BE FOUND ON THE EQUATOR NETWORK WEBSITE:

<http://www.equator-network.org>.

This is an excellent resource centre for Authors, for use when planning, conducting and writing up your research.

Embargo policy

BJOG articles are strictly embargoed until their publication online to prevent publication of stories in the general media before the original paper on which they are based is available. Doctors in practice need to have reports available in full detail before they can advise their patients about the reports' conclusions. Moreover, media reports of scientific research before the work has been peer reviewed and fully published may lead to the dissemination of inaccurate or premature conclusions.

Authors should not publicise their work while their manuscript is under consideration or awaiting publication. BJOG has an agreement with the media that they will not release stories before the embargo, in return for which the journal will cooperate with them in preparing accurate stories.

FAQs

Presubmission FAQs

What style of referencing should I use?

Vancouver style (i.e. numbered list)

One of the other Authors has submitted the manuscript to another journal, but we do not know if it has been accepted yet; can we submit it to BJOG?

No, until a reject decision has been received, BJOG cannot consider a paper currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

I want to submit a video, is this possible?

Yes, this can be hosted online as supporting information and referred to in the print version.

What is redundant publication?

Redundant (or duplicate) publication is publication of a paper that overlaps substantially with one already published in print or electronic media.

What is peer review?

Peer review is the critical assessment of manuscripts submitted to journals by experts who are not part of the editorial staff.

Can I include colour illustrations?

Yes, BJOG encourages colour figures. Authors can include colour images free of charge.

Post acceptance FAQs

Will I see proofs of my paper before publication?

Yes, the production office will send the Corresponding Author PDF proofs. We request Authors to return corrected proofs within 3 days of receipt.

How long will it take for my paper to appear online?

On average it takes 52 days from acceptance.

If I pay for OnlineOpen (free for all to view and download), how will readers know my article is free online?

An OnlineOpen icon will appear next to your article online indicating that the paper is freely available.

Will I have access to the article once published?

Yes, a PDF will be sent to the corresponding Author.

How much does it cost for my article to be OnlineOpen (open access), and when do I pay?

Each OnlineOpen article will be subject to a one-off fee of \$3000 USD to be met by or on behalf of the Author in advance of publication.

Check List

- Avoid abbreviations in the title
- All values in SI units (except blood pressure in mm Hg)
- Include all Essential Sections (see list above)
- Do not include pictures/graphs/diagrams within your text. Submit each picture/graph/diagram as a separate figure file
- Title page** of your text must include full title, Author details, contact details of the Corresponding Author with email address and the shortened running title
- If reporting experiments on animals, have you indicated in the manuscript whether the institutional and national guide for the care and use of laboratory animals was followed?
- Has informed consent obtained been indicated in the manuscript and has a copy of the signed patient consent form been obtained?
- For randomised controlled trials (RCTs):
 - a checklist and flowchart in accordance with the CONSORT guidelines <http://www.consort-statement.org>
 - the trial protocol
 - the registration number of the trial and the name of the trial registry (included in the manuscript on the last line of the structured abstract)
- Read BJOG Instructions for Authors for details of structured abstracts for main research articles, and types of abstracts required for other manuscript types
- Read BJOG Instructions for Authors for details of how the main text should be structured

For quick links to all the reporting guidelines, see:

<http://www.equator-network.org/resource-centre/library-of-health-research-reporting/>

Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials: CONSORT

Studies of diagnostic accuracy: STARD

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses: PRISMA

Observational studies in epidemiology: STROBE

Meta-analyses of observational studies in epidemiology: MOOSE

Scientific Editors

Reproductive medicine

Hesham Al-Inany <i>Egypt</i>	Reproductive medicine
Tarek El-Toukhy <i>UK</i>	Reproductive medicine
Adam Balen <i>UK</i>	Reproductive medicine, endocrinology and paediatric/adolescent gynaecology

Oncology

Stephen Dobbs <i>UK</i>	Gynaecological oncology
Pierre Martin-Hirsch <i>UK</i>	Gynaecological oncology, general gynaecology, meta-analysis of dichotomous outcomes, diagnostic test methodologies and meta-analysis

Urogynaecology

Douglas Tincello <i>UK</i>	Urogynaecology, clinical trials, general gynaecology, qualitative studies
Paul Hilton <i>UK</i>	Urogynaecology, general gynaecology

Basic Science

Shanthi Muttukrishna <i>Ireland</i>	Basic science – placental trophoblast function, serum screening markers for pregnancy complications, reproductive endocrinology, inhibin and related proteins
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Obstetrics; maternal fetal medicine

Amar Bhide <i>UK</i>	Obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine, ultrasound prenatal diagnosis, prolonged pregnancy, fetal growth restriction, fetal therapy
Michael Belfort <i>USA</i>	Maternal fetal medicine
Vincenzo Berghella <i>USA</i>	Obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine, prematurity
Donald Dudley <i>USA</i>	Immunology of normal and abnormal pregnancy, pathophysiology of preterm birth, recurrent pregnancy loss, patient navigation
Anthony Odibo <i>USA</i>	Prenatal diagnosis and screening, health economics, perinatal epidemiology, fetal therapy
Aris T. Papageorghiou <i>UK</i>	Obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine, ultrasound diagnosis, screening, pre-eclampsia, fetal growth restriction, fetal therapy
Federico Prefumo <i>Italy</i>	Obstetrics, maternal-fetal medicine, placental function, screening in pregnancy, fetal therapy
John Thorp <i>USA</i>	Obstetrics, epidemiology
Michael Varner <i>USA</i>	Obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine
Steve Walkinshaw <i>UK</i>	Obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine

General obstetrics and gynaecology

Patrick Chien <i>UK</i>	General obstetrics and gynaecology, case reports, minimal access surgery and systematic reviews
Mike Marsh <i>UK</i>	Obstetrics (diabetes, neurology, psychiatric disease, maternal medicine), menopause, osteoporosis, gynaecological neuroendocrinology
Austin Ugwumadu <i>UK</i>	Preterm delivery, perinatal infections, intrapartum care and critical care obstetrics, late miscarriage and chronic vulvovaginal disorders
Julia Hussein <i>UK</i>	Public health in the developing world, maternal, reproductive and neonatal health programmes

General gynaecology

Ellis Downes <i>UK</i>	General gynaecology, minimal access surgery, urogynaecology, endometrial ablation and new surgical techniques
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Trainee editors

Jenny Myers <i>UK</i>	Basic science, translational research, obstetrics and maternal medicine
Vanessa Harry <i>UK</i>	Gynaecological oncology, oncological imaging
Dimitrios Siassakos <i>UK</i>	High-risk pregnancy, recurrent miscarriage, antenatal care, advanced labour care, managing obstetric emergencies

Editorial Board

P. Bennett, <i>UK</i>	W. Ledger, <i>UK</i>
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K.S. Khan, <i>UK</i>	

List of useful links

Where to submit? <http://bjog.alltrack.net>

BJOG Instructions for Authors:

<http://www.bjog.org/view/0/authorInformation.html>

It is essential you read these before submitting

BJOG Editorial policies:

<http://www.bjog.org/view/0/editorialPolicy.html>

It is essential you read these before submitting

Advice on writing systematic reviews:

The Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook:

<http://www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook>

Wiley-Blackwell Author Services:

<http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/default.asp>

BJOG's requirements for authorship and for preparation of manuscripts submitted are in

accordance with the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals:

<http://www.ICMJE.org> *[read this before preparing and submitting your manuscript]*

Committee on publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines:

<http://www.publicationethics.org.uk>

The standards for the BJOG editorial process are in accordance with these guidelines

World medical association declaration of Helsinki:

<http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm>

A statement of ethical principles to provide guidance to physicians and other participants in medical research involving human subjects.

Preparing your Supporting Information to be available online only:

<http://authorservices.wiley.com/bauthor/suppmat.asp>

Resources for good reporting of health research studies:

<http://www.equator-network.org/>

