PUBLICATION GUIDELINES

Aligned with the Instructions for Authors published on the RIIS website

RIIS - Journal of Health Research & Innovation accepts original, scientifically rigorous and ethically responsible manuscripts in the field of health sciences.

Manuscripts must be aligned with the journal's aims and scientific scope and make a relevant contribution to advancing knowledge, clinical practice, health education, health management, public health, innovation, quality and safety of care, or health policy.

Document coordination: These Guidelines set out the full requirements. The Self-Check Checklist confirms compliance, the Title Page gathers the manuscript and author identification details, and the Author Responsibility Statement formalises the authors' commitments.

1. Manuscript types

RIIS considers the following manuscript types for publication:

- Original research articles;
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses;
- Scoping reviews;
- Theoretical articles/essays;
- Editorials, by invitation.

The manuscript type must be clearly identified at the time of submission.

2. Required files and documents

The submission must include:

- an anonymised manuscript prepared using the official RIIS template;
- a Title Page submitted as a separate file;
- ethics committee approval or a reasoned exemption statement, when applicable;
- informed consent or consent for publication, when applicable;
- RIIS Self-Check Checklist;
- Author Responsibility Statement.

The Title Page must include:

- manuscript title;
- names of all authors;
- academic degree;
- full institutional affiliation, city and country;
- email address and ORCID of all authors;
- identification of the corresponding author;
- individual author contributions;
- funding sources;
- conflict of interest;
- acknowledgements, when applicable.

The file submitted for review must not contain names, affiliations, identifying acknowledgements, document properties, or any information that could reveal the authors or their institutions.

3. Formatting

The manuscript must:

- be submitted in an editable Microsoft Word format;
- use A4 paper;
- have 2.5 cm margins;
- use 11-point Calibri font;
- use 1.5 line spacing;
- use justified text;
- have numbered pages;
- use hierarchically organised headings and subheadings;
- not exceed 15 pages, including references, tables and figures, unless otherwise specified by the Editorial Team for a particular manuscript type.

Abbreviations must be defined at first use. Excessive use of bold, underlining, coloured backgrounds or font variation should be avoided.

4. Title, abstract and keywords

Title

- be clear, informative and scientifically accurate;
- reflect the content of the manuscript;
- contain no more than 12 words;
- be provided in Portuguese, English and Spanish.

Abstract

- contain no more than 200 words;
- be provided in Portuguese, English and Spanish;
- include an introduction, objective, methodology, results/discussion and conclusion.

A maximum of four keywords must be provided in Portuguese, English and Spanish, preferably selected from the controlled vocabularies DeCS - Health Sciences Descriptors and MeSH - Medical Subject Headings.

5. Structure of original research articles

Original research articles must include:

1. Title;
2. Abstract;
3. Keywords;
4. Introduction;
5. Background or theoretical framework, when applicable;
6. Methodology;
7. Results;
8. Discussion;
9. Conclusion;
10. Final statements, including conflicts of interest and other applicable statements;
11. References.

Introduction

It must present the problem, the current state of knowledge, the scientific and professional relevance of the study, and its objective or research question.

Methodology

It must clearly and sufficiently describe:

- study design and setting;
- population, participants or sample;
- inclusion and exclusion criteria;
- data collection instruments and procedures;
- analysis procedures;
- ethical considerations.

Results

They must be presented objectively, clearly and consistently with the study objectives and methods. Information already presented in tables or figures must not be repeated in full in the text.

Discussion

It must critically interpret the results, compare them with relevant scientific evidence, explain the study's contribution, and identify its limitations.

Conclusion

It must address the research objectives or questions and present the main implications of the results, without introducing new information or claims unsupported by the data.

6. Review articles

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses must follow the PRISMA guidelines.

Scoping reviews must follow the PRISMA-ScR guidelines.

Manuscripts must present:

- review question;
- protocol and registration, when applicable;
- eligibility criteria;
- information sources and search strategy;
- study selection process;
- data extraction and analysis;
- assessment of methodological quality or risk of bias, when applicable;
- synthesis method;
- results;
- discussion;
- conclusion.

7. Other manuscript types

Methodological articles must clearly describe the development, adaptation, validation or application of the method presented.

Implementation science studies must specify the context, intervention, implementation strategy, outcomes assessed and framework used.

8. Scientific reporting guidelines

Authors must use the reporting guideline appropriate to the study design, namely:

- CONSORT - clinical trials;
- SPIRIT - clinical trial protocols;
- STROBE - observational studies;
- PRISMA - systematic reviews and meta-analyses;
- PRISMA-ScR - scoping reviews;
- COREQ or SRQR - qualitative research;
- STARD - diagnostic accuracy studies;
- CARE - case reports;
- RECORD - studies based on routinely collected health data;
- ARRIVE - animal research.

When no specific guideline exists, authors should consult the EQUATOR Network.

9. Ethics and mandatory statements

Before the references, manuscripts must include, when applicable:

- ethical approval;
- informed consent;
- consent for publication;
- author contributions;
- conflicts of interest;
- funding;
- acknowledgements;
- data availability statement;
- statement on the use of artificial intelligence.

10. Tables and figures

Tables and figures must:

- be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are mentioned;
- have a clear title;
- be cited in the text;
- include an explanation of abbreviations;
- indicate the source when they are not original;
- have permission for reproduction, when applicable;
- be of sufficient quality for publication.

Tables must display their number and title in the heading. Figures must display their corresponding identification and caption.

11. References

Citations and references must comply with APA Style, 7th edition.

References must be:

- scientifically relevant;
- current, without excluding classic or foundational works;
- preferably drawn from primary sources;
- complete and verifiable;
- appropriate to the manuscript's topic, methodology and discussion;
- diverse in terms of authors, journals, institutions and geographical contexts, whenever scientifically applicable.

Recent literature should be prioritised, without mechanically applying a time limit when relevant foundational works exist.

The DOI must be provided whenever available, in the format https://doi.org/xxxxx.

The number of references must be proportionate to the topic, methodology and manuscript type.

Relevance of references: Articles published in RIIS must be cited whenever relevant to the manuscript.

12. Publication languages

RIIS publishes articles in Portuguese and English.

After acceptance, manuscripts submitted in Portuguese must also be made available in English, with linguistic quality appropriate for international scientific communication.

The title, abstract and keywords must be provided in Portuguese, English and Spanish.

The Editorial Team may request language revision whenever the quality of the text may compromise clarity or scientific understanding.

13. Editorial process

After submission, manuscripts undergo:

1. Administrative and document verification;
2. Editorial pre-screening;
3. Originality checking;
4. Review by at least two independent reviewers under a double-blind process;
5. Editorial decision;
6. Technical and document review;
7. Production and publication.

Details regarding criteria, decisions and timelines are available on the Peer Review Process page.

Submission of a manuscript does not guarantee its acceptance.

14. Author responsibility

Authors are responsible for the scientific, methodological, ethical, linguistic and formal quality of the manuscript.

Failure to comply with these instructions may result in the manuscript being returned for correction or rejected at the editorial pre-screening stage.

Information and submission: The Instructions for Authors, Manuscript Templates, Submission Requirements and Peer Review Process are available on the RIIS website.