

# Guide for Clinicians: Preparing an Abstract



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[oralhealthcongress.com.au](http://oralhealthcongress.com.au)

## Understanding the purpose and importance of abstracts

Abstracts provide a concise summary of your research, case study, or clinical experience.

They serve as a platform to share findings, insights, and innovations with the broader healthcare community. Well-written abstracts can enhance professional visibility, contribute to evidence-based practice, and facilitate knowledge exchange.

### Tips on structure

- **Title:** Choose a clear and descriptive title that accurately reflects the content of your abstract.
- **Background:** Clearly state the purpose of your study or case presentation.
- **Methods:** Briefly describe the study design, methodology, patient population, interventions, and data collection methods.
- **Results:** Summarise the key findings or outcomes of your research, case study, or quality assurance project.
- **Conclusion:** Provide a concise conclusion and discuss the significance, implications, or potential applications of your findings.

### Writing style

- Use clear and concise language, avoiding jargon or technical terms that may be unfamiliar to the audience.
- Be objective and precise in presenting your information, focusing on key points and relevant details.
- Ensure coherence and logical flow between different sections of the abstract.
- Proofread your abstract carefully for grammar, spelling, and formatting errors.

## Getting started

Start by identifying a topic within your field of expertise or clinical practice and review existing literature to explore relevant research studies or clinical guidelines. Define a clear research question or clinical problem that addresses gaps or challenges identified in the literature. Formulate specific objectives or hypotheses that outline the goals and expected outcomes of your study or clinical project, considering practical feasibility and ethical considerations. Seek input and feedback from peers or mentors to refine your focus, ensuring alignment with professional goals and potential contribution to the field. By systematically setting a clear focus or aim, you establish a framework for designing your study, collecting data, and ultimately preparing your abstract for submission.

- **Begin by defining** the scope and objectives of your abstract.
- **Review** relevant literature, guidelines, and existing research to inform your study design or case presentation.
- **Identify** potential collaborators, mentors, or academic advisors who can provide guidance and support throughout the abstract preparation process.

## Collaborating

- **Engage** with academic institutions, research networks, or professional organizations to access resources and expertise.
- **Seek** mentorship or collaboration opportunities with academic researchers, epidemiologists, statisticians, or other healthcare professionals.
- **Collaborate** on study design, data analysis, interpretation of findings, and manuscript preparation to enhance the rigor and quality of your abstract.



## Designs

Scientific conferences play a pivotal role in disseminating evidence from diverse study designs, fostering collaboration, and driving advancements in healthcare research, practice, and policy. Presenting evidence at conferences contributes to the collective knowledge base, promotes evidence-based practice, and improves patient outcomes and population health. Conferences offer opportunities for professional development, networking, and continuing education, enhancing clinical skills and critical thinking among healthcare professionals. By sharing evidence from randomised controlled trials, observational studies, qualitative research, and meta-analyses, researchers and clinicians contribute to evidence-based practice guidelines, policy decisions, and quality improvement initiatives, ultimately advancing patient care and healthcare delivery.

Study designs refer to the specific methods and approaches used to conduct research or investigate a particular phenomenon in healthcare. Different study designs offer varying levels of evidence and are selected based on the research question, objectives, and ethical considerations.

## Examples you might want to present

- **Case Study:** An in-depth analysis of a challenging clinical case, demonstrating diagnostic reasoning, treatment strategies, and clinical outcomes.
- **Case Series:** A collection of similar patient cases with variations in presentation, management approaches, or treatment outcomes, illustrating patterns or trends.
- **Quality Assurance Project:** An evaluation of clinical processes, protocols, or outcomes to assess adherence to standards of care, identify areas for improvement, and implement evidence-based interventions.
- **Models of Care:** A description of innovative care delivery models, collaborative care teams, or patient-centered approaches aimed at improving access, efficiency, and quality of care.

## Useful resources

Developing a research question: <https://www.monash.edu/library/help/assignments-research/developing-research-questions>

Nordquist, R. 2019. How to Write an Abstract Definition and Tips. <https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-abstract-composition-1689050>

Foster, C., Wager, E., Marchington, J. et al. Good Practice for Conference Abstracts and Presentations: GPCAP. Res Integr Peer Rev 4, 11 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41073-019-0070-x>

## Example abstracts

ADOHTA Abstract book

