The Equator Network and Health Research Reporting Guidelines

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Background

• 1962: Kefauver-Harris amendment to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act in the United States led to preapproval efficacy testing and the use of the randomized controlled trial for preapproval testing.


The EQUATOR Network’s (Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research) origins date back to the 1990s and work begun by CONSORT, CONSORT extensions and other Health Research Reporting Guidelines.

It is an international initiative to improve the reliability and value of health literature by promoting responsible reporting of health research. Participants have included reporting guideline development groups, journal editors, peer reviewers, medical writers and funders.
The Equator Network has focused on dissemination of the principles of responsible research reporting and the implementation of reporting guidelines. The website provides an up to date centralized resource for:

- Researchers and scientists reporting research
- Peer reviewer assessment of research manuscripts; and
- Editorial evaluation of journal manuscripts

The EQUATOR Network (www.equator-network.org)

Reporting Guideline Development Process

“Reporting health research in a complete, accurate, transparent, and timely manner is a shared responsibility of all stakeholders involved in research funding, conduct, and publication. High-quality research reports contribute to more efficient translations of new research findings into clinical practice and help advance scientific knowledge and patient care. We will all benefit from these collective efforts.”

Health Research Reporting Guidelines (HRRG)

• More than 300 HRRGs (GREEN – general) are available from the Equator Network’s online library. Guidelines need support from researchers and use by peer reviewers and editors when evaluating articles.

• Journals support of HRRGs does not necessarily imply adherence. Using HRRGs helps ensure that published scientific articles are accurate and transparent.

• HRRGs form part of the foundation of editorial competency, the majority of available guidelines provide quite specific guidance relevant to a specific clinical specialty and the journals associated with that specialty.
The EQUATOR Network (www.equator-network.org)

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See all 316 reporting guidelines
The EQUATOR Network works to improve the reliability and value of medical research literature by promoting transparent and accurate reporting of research studies.

Our Toolkits support different user groups, including:

- **Authors**
  Information and resources for authors

- **Editors**
  Information and resources for editors and peer reviewers

- **Developers**
  Information and resources for guideline developers

- **Librarians**
  Information and resources for librarians

- **Teachers**
  Information and resources for teachers
To facilitate use of Health Research Reporting Guidelines (HRRGs), the Equator Network has created a table on its home page that provides a quick and easy access to the guidelines that provide a framework for editorial evaluation of the entire study (from title to final acknowledgement).

When a editor clicks on a type of study in this table the editor is able to see all available guidelines for the type of research being evaluated.
The EQUATOR Network (www.equator-network.org)

Library for health research reporting

The Library for health research reporting provides an up-to-date collection of resources related to health research reporting. These are aimed mainly at authors of research papers, reviewers and reporting guideline developers.

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The EQUATOR Network (www.equator-network.org)
Welcome to the CONSORT Website

CONSORT stands for Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials and encompasses various initiatives developed by the CONSORT Group to alleviate the problems arising from inadequate reporting of randomized controlled trials.

The CONSORT Statement

The main product of CONSORT is the CONSORT Statement, which is an evidence-based, minimum set of recommendations for reporting randomized trials. It offers a standard way for authors to prepare reports of trial findings, facilitating their complete and transparent reporting, and aiding their critical appraisal and interpretation.
CONSORT Guidelines – Randomized Controlled Trials (www.consort-statement.org)

SOME CONSORT EXTENSIONS

• **CONSORT Non-inferiority**: JAMA. 2012; 308(24): 2594-2604.
• **CONSORT Cluster**: BMJ. 2012;345:e5661.
• **CONSORT Pragmatic Trials**: BMJ. 2008;337:a2390.
CONSORT Guidelines – Randomized Controlled Trials (www.consort-statement.org)

SOME CONSORT EXTENSIONS


• **CONSORT-CENT (N of 1)**: BMJ. 2015;350:h1738.


• **TIDieR (Intervention Reporting)**: BMJ. 2014;348:g1687.
STROBE Guidelines – Observational Studies
(www.strobe-statement.org)

STROBE Statement
Strengthening the reporting of observational studies in epidemiology

What is STROBE?
STROBE stands for an international, collaborative initiative of epidemiologists, methodologists, statisticians, researchers and journal editors involved in the conduct and dissemination of observational studies, with the common aim of Strengthening the Reporting of Observational studies in Epidemiology.

The STROBE Statement is being endorsed by a growing number of biomedical journals. Click here for full list.

For STROBE-related entries in PubMed click here.

What's new in the STROBE Initiative?
Welcome to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) website!

PRISMA is an evidence-based minimum set of items for reporting in systematic reviews and meta-analyses. PRISMA focuses on the reporting of reviews evaluating randomized trials, but can also be used as a basis for reporting systematic reviews of other types of research, particularly evaluations of interventions.

Who should use PRISMA?

- Authors: PRISMA aims to help authors improve the reporting of systematic reviews and meta-analyses.
- Journal Peer reviewers and editors: PRISMA may also be useful for critical appraisal of published systematic reviews, although it is not a quality assessment instrument to gauge the quality of a systematic review.
Welcome to the Website for Case Reports

About CARE
The CARE guidelines provide a framework to support the need for completeness, transparency and data analysis in case reports and data from the point of care. The acronym CARE was created from CA—the first two letters in case and RE—the first two letters in reports.

The main tools of CARE are the CARE Statement, CARE checklist, and a Case Report Writing Template. These products offer a rationale and a standardized format for authors to prepare more complete and transparent case reports. This in turn will support meaningful evaluation of data from clinical practice for effectiveness. Over time this holds out the possibility of transforming how we think about ‘evidence’ and shift our attitudes toward observations.

Citing the CARE Statement from the website (for authors)
If you are using the CARE Statement from this website, we recommend using journal article citations rather than citing the CARE Statement website.

Endorse the CARE Statement
Why endorse the CARE Statement? Developing a reporting guideline is a long and complex process involving many people. Although the CARE Statement has been endorsed by many journals, and translated into several languages, the work is ongoing – there always is future development and the desire to...
The CARE guidelines support transparency and accuracy in the collection and reporting of information from patient encounters and the publication of case reports. This information (1) provides early signals of effectiveness, harms and cost, (2) informs clinical practice and clinical practice guidelines, and (3) generates testable hypotheses for clinical research.
The Equator Network and Health Research Reporting Guidelines HRRGs provide invaluable support for editorial competency.

Journals are probably best served by linking to the Equator Network website (www.equator-network.org) which has the most up to date versions of the various guidelines.