

**Methodology Papers**

**Purpose**

Methodology papers are study protocols or similar articles, explaining and discussing new or innovative ways of applying a methodology in the field of integrated care.

**Focus**

The focus is on the research methodology itself and how it is applied, to document the approach and encourage readers to replicate and use the methodology themselves.

**Content**

Methodology papers should include -

* a brief introduction to the methodology, what it builds on and in which context it is applied. If it is a study protocol, also a brief description of the project.
* a clear and succinct description of the methodology, when it should/can be used, which methods could complement it, etc.
* a description of the prerequisites to apply the methodology (e.g. data, resources, skills)
* a discussion on what the advantages and disadvantages of the methodology are, in which contexts it has been used already, what the international experiences are, etc.
* a discussion on how it can support integrated care research and inform practice or policy
* applicability and expected outcomes

**Involvement of people with lived experience**

We define ‘people with lived experience’ contributing to IJIC as those who have insights about integrated care based on personally accessing health, social care and other related services in relation to a long-term condition, social need, or wellbeing crisis, or through caring for a family member.

All articles submitted to IJIC must include a statement providing details of how people with lived experience have been involved in the underlying study or improvement project or in preparation of the manuscript. Involvement may include setting the overall purpose, designing the methodology, undertaking the research or improvement, and in the analysis and interpretation on findings and learning. If there was no such involvement, then the reasons for this should be shared.

It is recommended that the statement on involvement be included in the methodology or equivalent section.

**Suggested structure**

Structured Abstract (Introduction/Description/Discussion/Conclusion) (max 200 words)

Key words (max 6 words)

Introduction, comprising background and problem statement

Description of the methodology

Results (if any)

Discussion

Conclusion

Acknowledgements (if any)

References

**Length**

A maximum of 8,000 words, including abstract, keywords, tables, figures, boxes and references