The SQUIRE reporting guideline writing guide

For writing impactful reports that describe systematic work to improve the quality, safety and value of healthcare, using a range of methods to establish the association between observed outcomes and interventions. that can be understood and used by a wide audience.

|  |
| --- |
| Note |
| If you have not used a writing guide before, read about our suggested [writing process](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/about/writing-using-reporting-guidelines.html).  This guide is not a template. Don’t expect to fill it in and end up with a finished article. Instead, think of it as an exercise book.   1. Collate information and make notes in this guide; 2. Delete the prompts and headings, reorganise your notes into a narrative structure, moving content to tables, figures, or appendices when appropriate, thereby creating a writing outline. 3. Draft, revise, and edit your text in a separate file, referring to your outline throughout.   Before you begin, double check that SQUIRE is the [most applicable reporting guideline](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/squire/index.html?#applicability) for your work. Other reporting guidelines have their own writing guide.  The [UK EQUATOR Centre training](https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/training.html) helps researchers develop writing skills and to use reporting guidelines (like this one) to write research articles and applications that are complete, concise, and compelling. It covers many of the items of the SQUIRE reporting guideline, including how to prepare effective abstracts, titles, introduction and discussion sections, as well as how to use writing guides to create writing outlines, how to turn outlines into drafts, and drafts into polished text. |

# Title and Abstract

## [1. Title](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/title.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| Indicate that the manuscript concerns an initiative to improve healthcare (broadly defined to include the quality, safety, effectiveness, patient-centredness, timeliness, cost, efficiency and equity of healthcare). |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [2. Abstract](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/abstract.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| 1. Provide adequate information to aid in searching and indexing. 2. Summarise all key information from various sections of the text using the abstract format of the intended publication or a structured summary such as: background, local problem, methods, interventions, results, conclusions. |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

# Introduction

## [3 & 4. Problem description & Available Knowledge](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/problem-description-available-knowledge.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| 1. Nature and significance of the local problem. 2. Summary of what is currently known about the problem, including relevant previous studies. |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [5. Rationale](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/rationale.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| Informal or formal frameworks, models, concepts, and/or theories used to explain the problem, any reasons or assumptions that were used to develop the intervention(s), and reasons why the intervention(s) was expected to work. |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [6. Specific aims](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/specific-aims.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| Purpose of the project and of this report. |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

# Methods

## [7. Context](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/context.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| Contextual elements considered important at the outset of introducing  the intervention(s). |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [8. Intervention(s)](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/interventions.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| 1. Description of the intervention(s) in sufficient detail that others  * could reproduce it  1. Specifics of the team involved in the work. |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [9. Study of the Intervention(s)](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/study-of-the-interventions.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| 1. Approach chosen for assessing the impact of the intervention(s) 2. Approach used to establish whether the observed outcomes were due to  * the intervention(s). |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [10. Measures](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/measures.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| 1. Measures chosen for studying processes and outcomes of the  * intervention(s), including rationale for choosing them, their * operational definitions, and their validity and reliability  1. Description of the approach to the ongoing assessment of contextual  * elements that contributed to t… |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [11. Analysis](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/analysis.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| 1. Qualitative and quantitative methods used to draw inferences from  * the data  1. Methods for understanding variation within the data, including the  * effects of time as a variable. |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [12. Ethical considerations](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/ethical-considerations.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| Ethical aspects of implementing and studying the intervention(s) and  how they were addressed, including, but not limited to, formal ethics  review and potential conflict(s) of interest. |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

# Results

## [13 a & b. Evolution of the intervention and details of process measures](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/intervention-evolution-process-measures.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| A. Initial steps of the intervention(s) and their evolution over time (e.g., time-line diagram, flow chart, or table), including modifications made to the intervention during the project.  B. Details of the process measures and outcome. |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [13 c, d & e Contextual elements and unexpected consequences](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/context-unexpected-consequences.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| 1. Contextual elements that interacted with the interventions 2. Observed associations between outcomes, interventions and relevant  * contextual factors  1. Unintended consequences such as benefits, harms, unexpected results,  * problems or failures associated with the intervention(s) |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [13 e. Missing data](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/missing-data.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| Details about missing data. |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

# Discussion

## [14. Summary](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/summary.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| 1. Key findings, including relevance to the rationale and specific aims 2. Particular strengths of the project |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [15. Interpretation](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/interpretation.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| 1. Nature of the association between the intervention(s) and the  * outcomes  1. Comparison of results with findings from other publications 2. Impact of the project on people and systems 3. Reasons for any differences between observed and anticipated  * outcomes, including the influence of context  1. Costs and strategic trade-offs, including opportunity costs |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [16. Limitations](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/limitations.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| 1. Limits to the generalisability of the work. 2. Factors that might have limited internal validity such as confounding, bias, or imprecision in the design, methods, measurement, or analysis. 3. Efforts made to minimise and adjust for limitations. |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## [17. Conclusion](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/conclusion.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| 1. Usefulness of the work 2. Sustainability 3. Potential for spread to other contexts 4. Implications for practice and for further study in the field 5. Suggested next steps |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

# Other information

## [18. Funding](https:/resources.equator-network.org/guidelines/squire/items/funding.html)

|  |
| --- |
| Things To Consider |
| Sources of funding that supported this work. Role, if any, of the  funding organisation in the design, implementation, interpretation and  reporting. |

* Make notes here:
* …
* …

## How to cite

Describe how you used SQUIRE at the end of your Methods section, referencing the resources you used e.g.,

‘We used the SQUIRE reporting guideline(1) to draft this manuscript, and the SQUIRE reporting checklist(2) when editing, included in supplement A’

If you use a reporting checklist, remember to include it as a supplement when publishing so that readers can easily find information and see how you have interpreted the guidance.

1. Ogrinc G, Davies L, Goodman D, Batalden P, Davidoff F, Stevens D. SQUIRE 2.0 (standards for QUality improvement reporting excellence): Revised publication guidelines from a detailed consensus process. BMJ Quality & Safety [Internet]. 2016 Dec;25(12):986–92. Available from: <https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/25/12/986>

2. Ogrinc G, Davies L, Goodman D, Batalden P, Davidoff F, Stevens D. The SQUIRE reporting checklist. In: Harwood J, Albury C, Beyer J de, Schlüssel M, Collins G, editors. The EQUATOR network reporting guideline platform [Internet]. The UK EQUATOR Centre; 2025. Available from: [https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/squire/squire-checklist.docx](https://https:/jamesrharwood.github.io/equator-guidelines-website/guidelines/squire/squire-checklist.docx)