

Age and Ageing

FAQs for authors, readers and reviewers.

For prospective authors:

- **How do I submit an article to Age and Ageing journal?**
Please make your submission via [ScholarOne](#). These FAQs are in addition to the main [Information for Authors](#) which provide the basic instructions for making a submission.
- **Is my paper suitable for Age and Ageing journal?**
If you have good findings and something worth saying, especially if there is potential clinical application, this will be of particular interest. Our scope includes applied and clinical research on human ageing and clinical, epidemiological, and psychological aspects of later life, medical education and service improvement. We place particular emphasis on material which will be of immediate interest to clinicians.
- **What type of articles are less likely to be considered?**
Cross-sectional analyses, retrospective studies with significant residual confounding, single-centre studies that are not appropriately powered and are likely to provide preliminary information. We rarely publish analyses of epidemiological studies where the clinical, health policy or educational implications are not clear. We do not publish in vitro or animal studies.
- **Should I write to the Editor to ask if the article is of interest before I submit?**
Unfortunately, due to the volume of submissions and queries, we cannot offer pre-submission advice. We would urge you to submit your article so that the Editorial Team can give you routine feedback as part of the peer review process. You should be guided by the [Instructions to Authors](#) which includes our scoping statement.

- **Do you consider papers that have been part of an academic dissertation (e.g. MSc, MD, PhD)?**

Yes, unless published in another journal. We do not consider publication on your institution's repository or publication as a meeting abstract as duplicate publishing and it does not exclude submission to *Age and Ageing*, but please declare it when prompted.

- **Do you consider clinical audits, service evaluations or quality improvement papers?**

Yes, if they have received the appropriate approval/s by the relevant institutional review boards and the approving institution has authorised submission for publication. We have published a guide to writing Quality Improvement Papers: [Age and Ageing to introduce a new category of paper: healthcare improvement science](#) and you can read articles in this category [here](#).

- **How can I make a successful submission?**

Read our [Instructions for Authors](#) to ensure that your manuscript meets the scope of the journal and the criteria and format of the article category you will choose. You should also take advice from a senior colleague before you submit and ask a friend to read through the final draft.

We asked our Editorial Team what they look for in a submission, and they have offered the following advice:

- **The cover letter** – is an opportunity to tell us why you think we should publish your paper. Please tell us what is the main value of your paper to the readers of *Age and Ageing*. Do not repeat results at length or copy the abstract.
- **Composition of a research team and authorship** – The most wide reaching manuscripts offer authorship reflective of a multidisciplinary research team (MRT) best served to address the needs of the research question. For example, a manuscript with only geriatricians may miss out the perspective of others in the care pathway for example nursing, physiotherapists, etc. Note the inclusion of a methodologist (Statisticians, Health Economists, Qualitative, Systematic Reviewer Methodologist, etc) will offer an additional perspective and improve not just the analysis but design too. If you are missing a discipline in the MRT try reaching out early on.
- **Study design** – A good, clear study design is essential to make sure the results are reliable and valid. Other than the basic checks in relation to ethics, decent length of methods and solid statistical methods, the Editorial Team also check for the study design and quality of data as an initial sign of the quality of the study/paper.
- **Define the Population Intervention (or exposure) Comparator and Outcome (PICO) clearly** – Often researchers get very invested in a particular part of the care pathway but fail to keep in mind the research question and PICO. Any methodologist will highlight the importance of the parts of the PICO that may be outside of the key interest of the researchers- for example what exactly is the control (or exposure) variable and will the population under investigation offer enough variability in the exposure variable to show a difference in the outcome.
- **Analysis** – Fit an appropriate analysis to the research question and PICO, rather than deciding you can analyse your data with a Student-*t* test and work backwards to a research question.

- **Statistical analysis** – should be robust and solid but at the same time not too complicated, clearly reported and readable.
- **The discussion** – should offer the following: a brief summary of the results in a couple of sentences- it should not be a repeat of the results section; it should put the findings in the context of the wider literature; then offer the likely mechanism of why the findings happen; offer an honest description of the strengths and weakness of the work; finally offer the impact of the findings on future research, clinical practice and public health policy.
- **Novelty** - The paper should add something to the literature. Editors don't necessarily know each topic in detail, so it is important to state the knowledge gap in the introduction clearly and how it was addressed through the study. It is important to remain true to this as the Editor will send it out to experts in the field who would see through it if not accurate.
- **Readable** – In addition to a good quality of English, it is important that the paper is logically written and succinct. We value clarity in the research question and the study design. Editors are looking for a clear message in the paper that is easy to see throughout the abstract and the paper.
- **The conclusion** – should match the research conducted. The clinical message should be clear and useful for clinicians.

A useful read for prospective authors is [Why are research papers rejected?](#) By Derick Wade, Editor of *Rehabilitation Matters*.

- **I am an Early Career Researcher. How can I build my skills as a successful author?**
Partnering with senior colleagues to write blogs or commentaries offers good opportunities to get published. Moving beyond those formats towards writing successful research papers can require more guidance and sharing of expertise. Making a submission and receiving criticism can be daunting. You might benefit from peer review mentoring partnerships which can help you to engage with the process and get insight on how to write and respond to criticism. Peer review can help you to see the process and editorial requirements from the other side and bring that perspective to your own writing. Make yourself available as a co-reviewer to colleagues who are active peer reviewers and are prepared to mentor you.
- **What are the Open Access publication options?**
Age and Ageing is a hybrid journal meaning that authors have the option of paying an Open Access publication charge (APC) to make their paper freely available online immediately upon publication. Most UK institutions will be covered by a Read and Publish deal which will cover the APC. [Find out if your institution is participating.](#) We can offer a 20% discount on the APCs for members of the [BGS](#). Making a paper Open Access doubles the number of downloads. [Applicable Open Access charges can be found here.](#)
- **Does the journal offer fast-track processing?**
We are happy to fast track papers that are likely to change clinical practice, or if there is another pressing reason such to coincide with a conference presentation or allow study data to be included in an upcoming clinical guideline. As much advanced warning as you can give us would be welcome. Please make this request to the Editorial Office (aa@bgs.org.uk) as early as you can. Pre-submission enquiries should include the study protocol and/or a draft

of the abstract of the paper, together with a letter explaining why fast track review is sought.

- **What is the usual timeline for routine peer review?**

It is difficult to give a time for the average peer review process. The average time from submission to final decision is 23 days, but this is skewed by our high rejection rate, about 70% of our papers are rejected immediately, which takes an average of 3 days. If we exclude the outright rejections, there is an average of 63 days from submission to final decision. Production turnaround is an average of 28 days, although we can fast-track the Author Accepted Version for publication in two days on request.

- **Can authors appeal against a rejection?**

We are not infallible, opinions vary across a large Editorial Team, and we are happy to consider appeals against rejection. We reassess these, and occasionally reverse a decision. However, authors should consider that if we reject a paper, it is because we think that there is little or no chance of acceptance.

- **My article has been rejected  What now?**

Rejection does not mean a paper is 'poor', but the topic may be of insufficient interest, importance, or novelty, the findings too uncertain or remote from clinical application. Sometimes we are interested in the topic, identify fundamental problems at the screening stage, and reject with the suggestions for revisions if the problem can be corrected. Competition is high for publication in *Age and Ageing* and although we were not able to progress your submission any further, we hope that you will find a home for it with another journal soon. A useful read is [Why are research papers rejected?](#) By Derick Wade, Editor of *Rehabilitation Matters*.

For published authors:

- **My article has been accepted  What now?**

We look forward to seeing your paper published! The production process takes an average of 28 days and includes licensing, copyediting, typesetting, design formatting and final proofing, all of which we will guide you through and be on hand to help as required. Oxford University Press will publish your article in the [Advanced Access](#) section of the journal website as soon as possible. At the end of the calendar month of publication your article will be collated into an issue of the journal.

- **How can I increase the impact and reach of my published work?**

Age and Ageing and the British Geriatrics Society use traditional and social media to maximise the impact of articles published in *Age and Ageing*. Please see our author resource [Disseminating Your Paper](#) for suggestions to increase the exposure to your work and make it discoverable to a wider audience. In particular:

- If your institution's press office is planning any promotions we would be pleased to be included or to collaborate on a joint activity.
- Do consider writing a post on the [BGS blog](#) for your article, particularly if you are able to reflect on clinical applications and new contexts in the time since your work was first written.

- Are you or your co-authors on Twitter? Tweet your paper with your twitter handles and include @Age_and_Ageing and we will make sure we follow you back and retweet.
 - Consider creating a graphical, audio or video abstract to accompany your conventional abstract. We can insert these media thumbnails in the preview of your article and these elements are great for attracting attention to your work. Contact aa@bgs.org.uk to discuss further.
- **What are the copyright rules for my published study – can I share the PDF on social media?**
In respect of the [Coalition for Responsible Sharing](#) we do not endorse sharing on Sci-Hub or with ResearchGate but we support the use of Scholarly Collaboration Networks (SCNs) which benefit the research community and uphold STM’s [Voluntary Principals for Article Sharing](#). The online tool [Can I Share It](#) can help you to check how and where an article can be shared in line with the access and usage rights and provides practical tools for easy sharing.
 - **How do I check my Age and Ageing article citations?**
If you open your article on the Oxford Journal website and click on “view metrics” on the right-hand side, a pop-up window with metrics (including the list of citing articles from Web of Science) will appear.

Comfortable and maximum walking speed of adults aged 20—79 years: reference values and determinants

RICHARD W. BOHANNON

Age and Ageing, Volume 26, Issue 1, January 1997, Pages 15–19,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ageing/26.1.15>

Published: 01 January 1997 Article history

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Abstract

Objectives:

to establish reference values for both comfortable and maximum gait speed and to describe the reliability of the gait speed measures and the correlation of



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- **How do I check my Age and Ageing Altmetric mentions?**
From the “metrics” panel mentioned above, look at the “shares” section for a breakdown of sources mentioning your articles. You can link “see more details” for more information. For

further reading on the Altmetric score, visit

https://academic.oup.com/journals/pages/authors/promoting_your_article/article_level_metrics#altmetricscore.

Shares



[See more details](#)



For readers:

- **How often is *Age and Ageing* journal published?**

From January 2022 the journal is published online monthly, with a new issue collated at the end of each calendar month. However new content is always published online as soon as possible (ahead of issue collation) and can be read in the [Advanced Access](#) page as soon as it is complete.

- **Is *Age and Ageing* free to read?**

All of our content is free to read 12 months after publication and about 30% of our new content is Open Access and therefore free to read without a subscription. We also regularly curate [content collections](#) that are free access for a limited time.

- **How do I access the subscriber-only content?**

When you click on an article on the [A&A website](#) which is behind the paywall (indicated by the  icon) you will be prompted to sign in.

- BGS members: Subscription is included in your membership and can be accessed using your login details for your BGS account. Follow [this link](#) or click on the BGS logo “Sign in via your Society” option when signing in on the A&A website.
- Non-members: if you are not covered by a group corporate or institutional subscription we would encourage you to [join the BGS](#) to get a personal subscription.
- [Recommend *Age and Ageing* to your library](#) to encourage them to take out a group subscription to give you and your colleagues access to the journal.

- **How can I hear about new content?**

All readers can register for new content email alerts [here](#). There are two options:

1. live updates of all new content (Advanced Access).
2. monthly Table of Contents email alerts when a new issue comes out.

We also include links to the latest table of contents in the BGS e-Bulletin. The front page of the journal website includes various feeds of the latest, the most cited or most read articles. The monthly [Editor’s View article](#) gives Rowan’s overview and highlights.

- **Why is A&A no longer available in print?**

[As presented in the latest BGS newsletter](#), the decision to cease print was driven by the needs of our authors and readers for more space and functionality in the published article,

which can only be offered in a digital format. The change also offers financial and environmental benefits and allows us to publish more quickly, more frequently and with a wider reach. The journal's output has doubled in the last year and the move to fully digital publication is a more appropriate and sustainable format for producing this growing journal.

- **What are the benefits now that *Age and Ageing* is a fully digital publication?**

A re-design of the A&A website home page is planned to launch in January 2022 and will show off the new and existing digital features. We are excited to be able to improve functionality and increase accessibility for the journal's diverse audiences. Benefits include:

- **More space for authors.** Most article categories enjoying a relaxation of word limits and numbers of tables, figures and references and supplementary data.
- **Better reader experience.** Improved visual design and web usability makes the content easier on the eye. New viewing options such as the Article Split View which allows you to view the main text in parallel to secondary content like a table or reference list.
- **Hosting of audio and video content,** including graphical abstracts which can embed multimedia thumbnails in the article preview
- **Subject sections** informed by and designed to integrate with the BGS SIGs. Allowing readers to filter content and "browse by topic". Development is underway for customised new content alerts by topic to enable curation of the reading experience.
- **Emphasis of the online collections,** which next year will include the 50th anniversary commentary collection.
- **Online comments.** Read and contribute to discussion on A&A article and engage with the authors. Go to "Add Comment" under any A&A article to participate.

For peer reviewers:

- **What is involved in peer review for *Age and Ageing*?**

The journal peer reviews about 600 submissions per year. A submission is overseen by the Editor or a Deputy Editor, who may also involve an Associate Editor. They aim to include two peer reviewers with expertise matching the topic and methodology of the article. We operate a double-blind peer review process, meaning that the authors and reviewers are anonymous to each other. Active peer reviewers might expect one or two invitations per year, but this will vary depending on their area of expertise and how many submission we receive. There is no obligation to accept invitations. We manage peer review online with [ScholarOne](#), but have direct contact with our peer reviewer as required. The review form is quite structured and guides the reviewer to make their responses as relevant as possible. Reviewers tend to give a paragraph or two of general comments and a list of more specific corrections which they may spot. However, we don't need reviewers to get into detailed correcting of the text. We contract a copy editor to sort out the language and have recourse to statisticians if required.

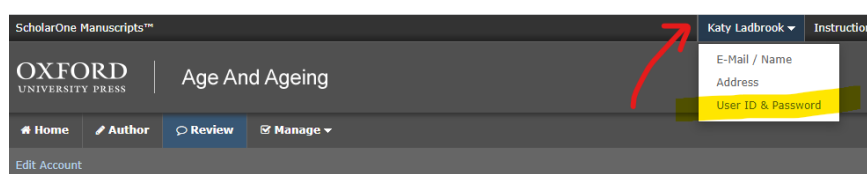
- **Can I register to be a peer reviewer for *Age and Ageing*?**

We have an existing policy for managing our peer review team and are unable to make additions on request. However, we can welcome expressions of interest from published *Age and Ageing* authors and from BGS members. Please get in touch aa@bgs.org.uk

- **I am registered to peer review for *Age and Ageing*. How can I ensure I am matched with the most appropriate articles?**

The Associate Editors browse ScholarOne and search user accounts by Subject Section and Keyword to try to match articles with suitable reviewers. You can help us by updating this information in your user account.

1. Log in to your [ScholarOne account](#)
2. In the top menu, click on your name to open the account options.
3. Select “User ID and Password”.
4. Add up to six general subjects and up to ten more specific keywords to describe your areas of expertise.



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1 E-Mail / Name
2 Address
3 User ID / Password

Previous Finish Cancel

User ID / Password for this site, not ORCID

User ID: req
Password: Change Password

Keywords Special Characters

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Subject Section

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Cardiovascular	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clear
Care homes	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clear
Community Geriatrics	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clear
Covid-19	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clear
Dementia and Related Disorders	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clear
End of Life Care	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clear
Ethics and Law	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clear
Falls and Bone Health	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clear

- **How do I take a break from peer reviewing?**

We are mindful that you may have a busy email inbox and do not want to pester you with unwanted invitations. If you wish you can pause or stop your availability as a peer reviewer via your ScholarOne account settings. Follow the steps above to get to the “User ID and Password” page and then scroll down to “Unavailable Dates” to set the dates.

- **What resources are there for peer reviewers?**

We highly recommend these [resources from EQUATOR](#) and the [guidelines from COPE](#) for peer reviewers.

- **What makes a good peer review?**

We asked our Editorial Team what they look for in a review, and they have offered the following advice:

- A good peer review gives an overall impression of the quality of an article. It identifies the key limitations and possible improvements. It should be detailed enough without going into lengthy prose.
- Evidence of understanding of the research, statement of strengths and limitations, constructive criticism.
- You do not need to provide copy-editing, but if you spot individual typos the authors would be grateful to you for flagging them up! You should report in your review if you feel the quality of the language needs general improvement.
- Don't make suggestions for revision that are not feasible. If it is not feasible for an article to be brought up to an acceptable standard then please suggest rejection.
- Timely review. We appreciate that everyone is dealing with disruption at work and at home, and that the clinical community especially is very stretched. However, we need to deliver timely feedback to the authors. If you can't deliver a review in the required timeframe please let us know as soon as you can.

To paraphrase Liz Wager et al in [How to Survive Peer Review](#):

- **Do you understand it?** Are the research objective and the methods clearly explained and is the work well presented?
- **Do you believe it?** Are the conclusions justified by the data and are the methods valid?
- **Do you care?** Is the manuscript original, important and interesting?