

Submission Categories 2020

The OAA invites you to submit abstracts to the Annual Scientific Meeting which will be held in Birmingham in May 2020. We encourage submission of all projects that will be of benefit to the care of mother and baby. Through the submission and review process, we seek to promote the highest standards of research ethics.

Abstracts for the Annual Scientific Meeting should be submitted to one of five groups:

- Original Research
- Service Evaluation
- Quality Improvement
- Surveys
- Case Reports

In previous years a number of authors have experienced difficulty deciding which category best describes their project. There is often debate about the difference between original research, service evaluation and quality improvement. Simply defined, they are:

1. Research

Research attempts to find new knowledge i.e. what is best practice? It usually requires approval of an ethics committee and the written consent of all subjects.

2. Service Evaluation

Service evaluation is a way to define or measure current practice, often service delivery aspects of care, the results of which help produce internal recommendations for improvements i.e. what standard does the service achieve? Where patient data is to be presented, the proposal should be approved by an ethics committee or the local Caldicott Guardian or in some situations by the hospital audit committee.

3. Quality Improvement

A QI program involves systematic activities that monitor, assess, and improve its quality of health care. Improving quality makes healthcare safer, effective, patient-centred, timely, efficient and equitable. Quality improvement projects should be peer-reviewed by senior members of the authors' anaesthetic department. They may or may not require approval from ethics or audit committees but at the very least if patient data are to be presented, the local Caldicott Guardian must be contacted and approval given.

Regardless of the category to which the project is submitted, authors are advised to seek peer-review and approval of their work by an ethics committee, audit committee or Caldicott Guardian (or equivalent). Failure to do so without adequate explanation may result in rejection of the abstract. All oral and poster presenters will be required to state the type of peer review / approval at the time of their presentation. This information should also be included on slides or posters. The meeting organisers may request that authors submit documents relating to the approval of their project or signed consent forms for case reports.

Authors of surveys which involve the collection and presentation of patient data are advised to seek the approval of their local Caldicott Guardian. If patients are directly involved in surveys and the data collection is not part of routine care, ethical approval is likely to be necessary. In such cases authors are advised to contact their local research ethics committee.

For case reports, subjects must not be identifiable and consent to present and publish must have been given (signature of the patient following a sentence that states they understand that, and agree

to, their case being presented anonymously at a post-graduate educational meeting and/or appearing in a journal). Presentation of a case series will require approval of the local Caldicott Guardian (or equivalent).

Abstracts will not be accepted if they have been published elsewhere, either in abstract form (other than in a non-journal abstract booklet) or as an accepted manuscript (including case reports and correspondence), in a journal or website before presentation at the OAA Meeting. If a paper based on the abstract is accepted by a journal following submission but before the OAA Meeting, it must not be published, either in print or online, before the abstract is presented. Please seek advice from the OAA organising committee if uncertain.

OAA Secretariat

on behalf of Dr Robin Russell, Dr Nuala Lucas and Meeting Organisers