

**Writing for Publication**

Cecily L. Betz, PhD, RN, FAAN  
 Professor of Clinical Pediatrics  
 Keck School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics  
 Director of Nursing Training  
 Director of Research  
 USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities  
 Editor -in-Chief, Journal of Pediatric Nursing

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**Session Objectives**

- List knowledge and skills necessary for writing for newsletters, journals, and other nursing related publications
- Generate a potential topic for publication based on your area of clinical expertise
- Identify potential organizational resources within the work setting that can be accessed to achieve your publication goal.

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**Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

- Cecily L. Betz, PhD, RN, FAAN
  - As Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Pediatric Nursing (JPN)*, the official Journal of PENS benefits indirectly as I receive an Editor’s stipend from Elsevier, Inc, JPN publisher

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## Understand mission & editorial focus

- Types of manuscripts
  - Empirical research with clinical relevance
  - Systematic or integrative reviews
  - Program evaluation
  - Theoretical discussion/analysis
  - Evidenced based practice
- Style & format
  - Reference style
  - Article format
  - Number of references
  - Content organization
  - Abstract format
  - Submission process



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## Journal of Pediatric Nursing



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## Strategies for writing a manuscript

- Develop a plan
  - Outline
  - Reasonable expectations
  - Timeline
  - Competing demands
- Identify available resources
  - Literature databases
  - Bibliographic software
  - Technical editor
  - Experienced authors as readers
  - Thesaurus/ dictionary

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### Determine Your Area of Expertise

- What is your area of expertise?
  - Pediatric Endocrinology
  - What do you do that is unique within that area of expertise?
    - Children with type 2 Diabetes
  - What is your area of practice?
    - Clinical, Research, Education,
    - Program Development



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### Coming Up with the Idea

- Area of expertise
  - Clinical Practice, Research, Education
- What is missing in the literature
- Dearth of information
- Innovative idea
- Accepted but not known
- Obvious but not realized/apparent

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### Formulate Your Topic

- Scan the specialty journals to determine the appropriate "fit"
  - *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*
  - *Pediatric Nursing*
  - *Issues in Comprehensive Pediatric Nursing*
  - *Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing*
  - *MCN: The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing*

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### Formulate Your Topic

- As you scan the journals, note:
  - Type of articles published
    - Research, Clinical, Evidence based, Theory
  - Article format
    - Sections required for inclusion in article
  - Page length
    - Length allowed with vary

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### Obtain editorial feedback on manuscript/concept/draft

- Consult with journal editors
  - Plan/options/content for manuscript development
  - Editorial assistance
  - Writing assistance
- Confer with peers
  - Manuscript suggestions
  - Networking
  - Editorial assistance

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### Formulate Your Topic

- Check the bibliographic databases
  - Determine what has been published on the topic
  - Type of articles published
    - Research, Clinical Practice, Theory, etc.
  - The themes/slant of previous articles
  - Date of previous publications

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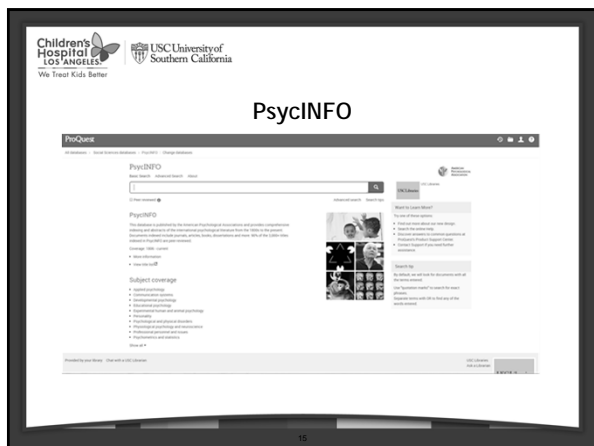
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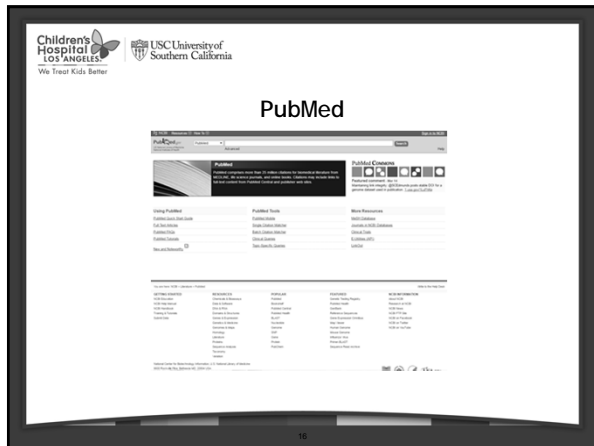
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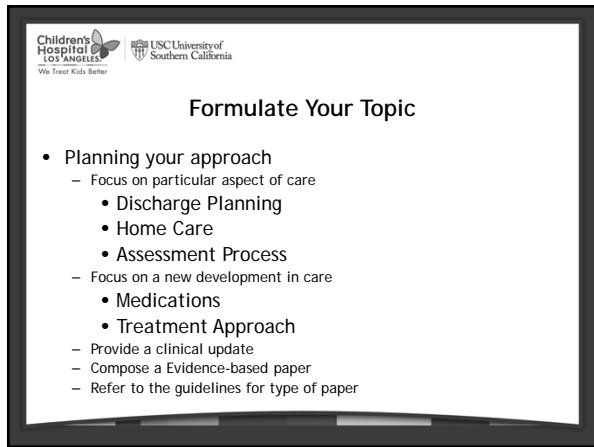
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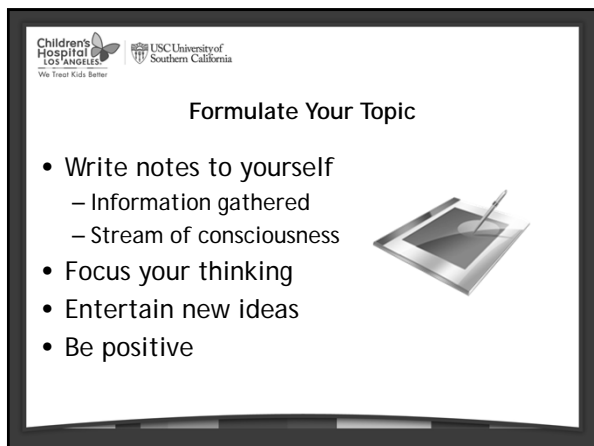
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### Select a Journal

- Appropriate to your topic area
- Peer reviewed
- "In press" timeline
- Target audience
- Author Guidelines
- Editorial Policy
- Websites

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### Publishing Papers

- *Choosing a Journal*
  - *Impact Factor*
- *Audience*
  - *Interdisciplinary*
  - *Discipline-specific*




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### Journal of Pediatric Nursing




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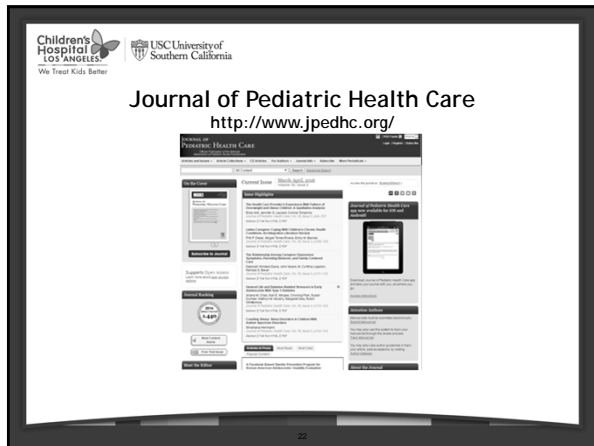
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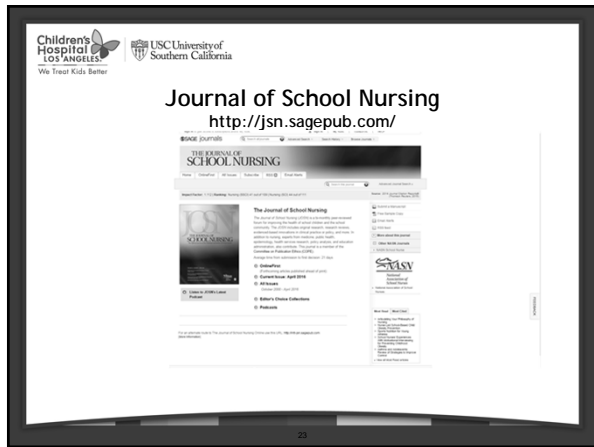
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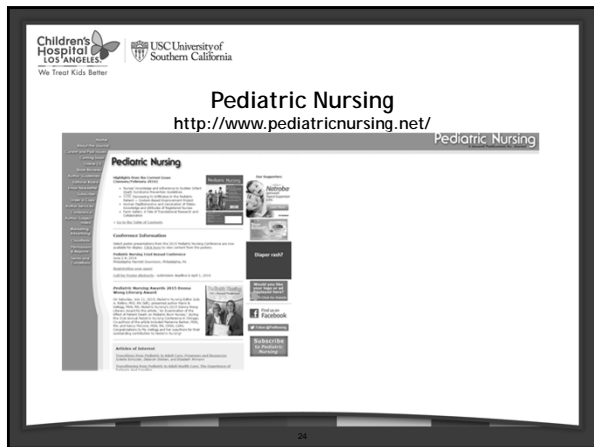
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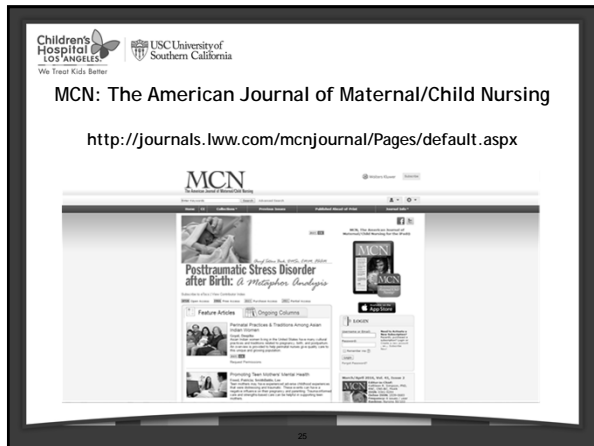
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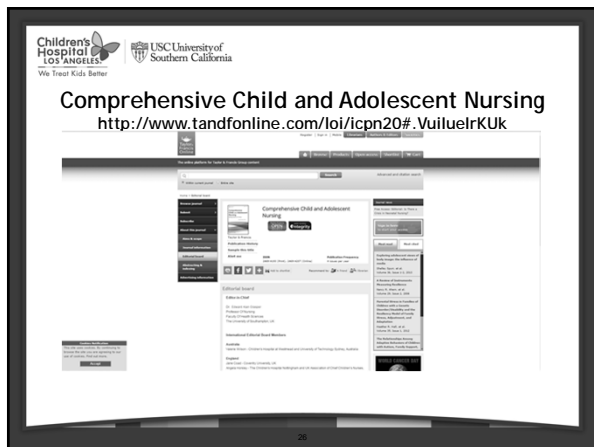
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### Send Query Letter/Email

- Elicit interest from editor about your topic
- Editor can provide you with useful input in developing your outline

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### Identify Your Resources

- Internet resources
- Technology resources
- Librarian
- Clinical experts
- Publishing experts
- Colleagues with writing skills



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### Review the literature

- Access the internet resources such as Medline, CINAHL
- Use recent resources
- Search until you reach saturation level
- Avoid using too many generalized references
- Avoid using nursing textbooks unless highly specialized

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### Formulate the Timeline-Strategy

- Operationalize the Idea/Select a Topic
- Formulate the Outline
- Survey the Literature (Journals/Author guidelines)
- Develop the First Draft
- Review/Proofread
- Formulate Revisions
- Submit

(Betz, Smith, Mazurek-Melnyk, & Rickey, 2014)

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**Formulate the Timeline-Hints**  
**Avoid Being Overly Ambitious**  
  
**Think Small**  
  
**Enjoy it**




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**Formulate the Outline-Hints**

- Scan the literature for models
- Scan the literature for content
- Review the author guidelines of various journals
- Note the style of referencing required

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**Formulate the Outline-Strategy for Clinical Paper**

- Introduction
- Incidence/Etiology
- Pathophysiology
- Interdisciplinary Management
- Nursing Care
  - Assessment
  - Nursing Diagnosis/Problems
  - Planning
  - Interventions
  - Evaluation/Identification of Outcomes
- Conclusion

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### Formulate the Outline-Strategy for Clinical Paper (Evidenced Based)

- Clinical question
- Search for evidence
- Critical appraisal
- Application to practice
- Evaluation

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### Formulate the Outline-Strategy for Research Manuscript

- Statement of the Problem
- Literature Review
- Theoretical Framework
- Methods
  - Human Subjects
  - Subjects
  - Procedure
- Findings
- Discussion/Clinical Implications

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### Formulate the Outline-Strategy for Concept Paper

- Introduction
- Organizing Concepts
- Literature
  - Methodology for literature selection
  - Analysis
- Synthesis
  - Implications
  - Knowledge Development

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### Formulate the Outline-Strategy for Program Outline

- Statement of the Program Need
- Overview of the Program to be Described
- Background Information (development)
- Description of the Program
- Nursing/Clinical Implications
- Program/Client Outcomes

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### PENS Column Journal of Pediatric Nursing

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### PENS Column

- Purpose
  - To publish scientific articles that are relevant to PENS nurses and general pediatric nurses

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### PENS Column Guidelines

- Primary author must be PENS member
- Needs to be an endocrine-related topic , but must be of interest to other pediatric nurses
- APA style, 6th edition (font size 12, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, etc.)
- 1400 word limit
- No more than 6 pages (including references, tables, figures)
- No abstract
- Submit to Jan Foote

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### PENS Column

#### Process

- Final version is due 4 months prior to publication date
- You will receive a proof close to publication date
- Please- keep in touch
- Understand that this is a commitment

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### Examples of PENS Columns

- PENS Position Statement on Transgender Youth (Krouac) 31(2)
- Screening for Depression in Adolescents With Diabetes (Dever) 31(1)
- Hypoparathyroidism in Children (Snyder) 30 (6)
- McCune-Albright Syndrome: An Overview of Clinical Features (Brillante et al.) 30 (5)
- Shared Medical Appointments for Adolescents With Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus: Important Learning Communities, (Davis et al.) 30 (4)

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## Writing Well

- Plan and research
- Organize
- Outline
- Draft-start filling in ideas, bits of information, references
- Edit, edit, edit
  - Backwards read
  - Self and others
  - Grammar and spell check

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## The Introduction

- Definitions
- Key terms and concepts
- The purpose
- A roadmap for the reader

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## An Effective Introduction

- Grabs the reader's interest
  - Good Beginnings
    - Short anecdote or story-vivid, emotional appeal
    - Startling statistics relevant to the readers
    - Quotations
    - Historical background

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### The Body

- Headings
- Paragraphs
- Transition sentences between paragraphs

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### Writing the Paper-HINTS

- Emphasis the nursing perspective
- Nonspecific information
- Insufficient discussion of nursing care
- Data information



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### Writing the Paper-Strategies

- Follow the outline, if not revise as needed
- Write what you can
- Begin to write the next section before ending
- Weight the narrative sections with each other as some will be longer than others



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### Common Writing Mistakes

- Too dry-provide examples or illustrations
  - Case studies or scenarios add interest
- Too general-be as specific as possible
  - Provide background
  - Provide detail
  - Provide data
  - Provide constructive, useful applications

The Litmus Test: Ask yourself- What am I adding to a nurse's knowledge base? Nurses want rich, useful information that they can directly apply.

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### Writing the Paper-HINT

***IT WILL NEVER BE PERFECT!***

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### Review your drafts

- Proofread your draft with "fresh look"
- "Cut and paste"
- Share your manuscript with family and friends for editorial assistance
- Share your manuscript with colleagues for content input and feedback

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### Submit your manuscript

- Insert the "finishing touches" to tables, figures, boxes
- Assemble materials needed for uploading on website



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### References

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Betz, C.L. (2001) Frequently asked questions....again. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing, 16* (4), 44-47.

Betz, C.L., Smith, K., Mazurek-Melnyk, & Olbrysh, R.T. (2014). Disseminating evidence through Publications, Presentations, Health Policy Briefs and the Media. B. Melnyk & E. Fineout-Overholt, (Eds). *Evidence-based practice in nursing and healthcare: A guide to best practice*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 391-432,

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