

# Preparing Your Research Abstract for the WellSpan Health Collaborative EBP and Nursing Research Conference

Date to Remember: **December 12, 2024** is the **DEADLINE** for submitting abstracts. Abstracts will not be accepted after this date.

Review the Call for Abstracts for specific information about the online submission process. Failure to adhere to word count limit (maximum 300 words) and failure to utilize required headings will result in your abstract being rejected.

## Constructing Your Research Abstract

All research abstracts must have the following headings:

- 1. Background:** Use a problem statement approach
  - Information is lacking about...*
  - Despite the fact that...*
  - Little is known about...*
- 2. Purpose:** Describe your study in relation to the overall problem
- 3. Theoretical framework:** theoretical framework that guides the study (as appropriate)
- 4. Methods:** Succinctly describe your study's
  - Design
  - Setting
  - Sample
  - Procedure
  - Measures
  - Analysis
- 5. Results:** What did your study show?  
Use only information introduced in the Methods section. This section is all fact - no interpretation.
- 6. Conclusions/Implications:**
  - What does your study mean?
  - Were you able to support your hypothesis?
  - What is the next step?
  - How does this new knowledge inform nursing practice?

If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact Dr. Barbara Buchko, conference chair, at [bbuchko@wellspring.org](mailto:bbuchko@wellspring.org)

## A Few Helpful Hints

Title: Say it convincingly!

- Descriptive – but <10 words
- Compelling – why should I read abstract?
- Accurate – limit to what is in abstract

Length: Say it succinctly!

- Abstract length **cannot** exceed 300 words. The “average” sentence has about 15 words; therefore, you have about 20 sentences to construct
  - Background: 1-2 sentences
  - Purpose: 1-2 sentences
  - Theoretical framework: 1-2 sentences
  - Methods: 4-6 sentences
  - Results: 4-6 sentences
  - Conclusion/implications: 2-4 sentences

The Background and Purpose sections should be brief. Pace yourself for the Methods and Results sections, as this is where you will want to concentrate most of your word allowance.

Do NOT identify your organization by name in the abstract. This is a blinded review to prevent bias by the review committee.

Writing: Say it stylishly!

- Remember the 4 Cs of abstract writing
  - Complete — cover the major parts of the study
  - Concise — no excess wordiness or unnecessary information.
  - Clear — readable, well organized, and jargon free.
  - Cohesive — flows smoothly and logically to and from each part.
- Edit, edit , edit
  - Have a friend or mentor read you rough draft and offer suggestions
  - Don't exceed specified length
  - Use abbreviations sparingly
  - Proofread carefully

**Congratulate yourself** for taking the initiative to write and submit an abstract for the WellSpan Health Collaborative EBP and Nursing Research Conference!