

Dear Potential Contributor to *BMJ Quality & Safety*,

After many years of replying to frequent inquiries received asking about potential submissions to the journal, the editors decided to stop responding to such queries. This letter explains why, and provides reassurance on the main subjects of these queries.

First, the volume of inquiries does add substantially to our work. One inquiry a day may not sound like much, but responding to each one and reviewing the materials they contain—article outlines, abstracts or full manuscripts—adds significantly to the work of handling the multiple formal submissions we receive every day. Initially, the editors continued with this additional work in the spirit of being as helpful as possible. However, second, we noted that we could seldom say anything useful in our responses. Sometimes we could reply that a manuscript clearly fell outside our scope. Very occasionally, we could reply with enthusiastic interest in the proposed manuscript. But, in the vast majority of cases, we could say only something to the effect of: ‘This manuscript falls within scope for us and you are welcome to submit it so we can formally review it.’

So, if you are inclined to submit your manuscript to *BMJ Quality & Safety*, we suggest that you simply follow through on that inclination. We provide a rapid review, with a median time to first decision of 9 days (i.e., 50% of all submissions have a first decision within 9 days).

We appreciate that some inquiries, rather than asking about the suitability of a topic or manuscript, involve a question of article type. For example, “Should I submit this as Original Research or an ‘Improvement Report? Or, “Should I pitch this as a submission to ‘The Problem with...’ series or just a regular Viewpoint?” We would like to reassure you that we will never reject a paper or review it unfavourably because of the wrong choice of article type. We will review the manuscript’s content on its merits. If the content seems promising but the editors (or reviewers) think it would work better reformatted as a different article type, we will simply say so in the decision letter. In other words, changes to the article type can occur during the revision process.

Previously, we had encouraged inquiries for potential submissions of two types: narrative reviews and submissions to the series called “The Problem with...” Instead, instructions/advice for both of these specific submission types now appear on our website.

Sincerely,

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Co-Editors-in-chief, *BMJ Quality & Safety*
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