

## What is a *BJPsych* paper?

The following criteria are referred to by handling editors when screening and processing research submissions.

1. *BJPsych* is a general journal for practitioners and researchers. Papers should be accessible, and the English must be of an adequate standard, along with an attractive and clear writing style for an international readership.
2. Although a general journal, specialist papers are welcome where they are of the highest quality, with important findings holding implications for the practice of psychiatry and mental health care more generally and of interest to a broad audience.
3. The findings should be definitive in that the methodology is sound, and a clear finding is identified, which is original and a significant advance on existing knowledge, albeit all papers will have some limitations. And there should be implications for clinical practice (this does not preclude a negative finding from being published).
4. Historically, well-cited and attractive papers include studies introducing new psychometric instruments and new interventions especially in trial designs; systematic reviews are also popular.
5. Studies on national or regional data must be of international significance and not so context-dependent that their findings are not applicable to a wider population or group of patients.
6. Papers that show associations or correlations without any clear mechanism of action or convincing causal relationship will not be a priority. Such papers that are ground-breaking in identifying new potential explanations for mechanisms of disease and potential intervention will receive some priority, but the relationship between the finding and potential intervention needs to be more than hopeful paraphrasing. Some evidence or signal in the paper should be evident, even if for intermediary outcomes or markers of illness and health. This is particularly difficult to apply as a general

rule across different disciplines. For example, so many correlation papers emerge in epidemiology, genetics and in neuroimaging, neurobiological and mechanistic studies. The *BJPsych* remains committed to publishing the best of such papers, but they should be written for a general audience, accessible and of the highest scientific quality.

7. A *BJPsych* paper will adhere to the relevant international reporting standards (CONSORT for randomised controlled trials; PRISMA for systematic reviews of evaluation studies; MOOSE for meta-analysis of observational studies; STROBE for observational/epidemiological studies and CHEERS for economic evaluations).
8. Health services research is welcomed where of international impact, highlighting important areas of equity and effective intervention. Generally, more specialist service related papers will be directed to either *BJPsych Bulletin* or *BJPsych Open*.
9. Patient and public involvement (PPI) in psychiatric research is a priority as it improves the quality of research and impact. PPI is also now a strategic priority for the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Statements of PPI should be included in the Method, Results and Discussions sections, as appropriate.
10. Generally, educational or CPD focused papers should be sent to *BJPsych Advances*.
11. Generally, papers on services, audit, and training should be directed to *BJPsych Bulletin*.
12. *BJPsych Open* takes primary research papers and seeks to be of equal quality to *BJPsych*, but accommodates a wider format of publication types, including paper series that might previously have been considered as supplements to the *BJPsych* (supplements are no longer published in *BJPsych*).