ABOUT THE JOURNAL OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

The *Journal of Primary Health Care* (*JPHC*) is a peer-reviewed journal which has replaced the *New Zealand Family Physician*. It is a interdisciplinary publication aimed at moving research into primary health care practice and practice into research. This includes the fields of family practice, primary health care nursing and community pharmacy as well as areas such as health care delivery, health promotion, epidemiology, public health and medical sociology of interest to a primary health care provider audience.

The journal publishes peer-reviewed quantitative and qualitative original research, systematic reviews, papers on improving performance and short reports that are relevant to its primary health care practitioners. For the aim, scope, instructions to authors and templates for publications see www.rnzcgp.org.nz/journal-of-primary-health-care/.

JPHC acts as a knowledge refinery to provide busy practitioners with up-to-date knowledge about the latest evidence and best practice. Continuing professional development includes pithy summaries of the latest evidence such as *Cochrane Corner*, a *String of PEARLS* (Practical Evidence About Real Life Situations) and *Charms & Harms* (evidence of effectiveness and safety of complementary and alternative medicines). *JPHC* includes *Poumanu* (treasures of Maori wisdom) and *Gems of NZ Primary Health Care Research* published at home and internationally.

Evidence can help inform best practice. However sometimes there is no evidence available or applicable for a specific patient with his or her own set of conditions, capabilities, beliefs, expectations and social circumstances. Evidence needs to be placed in context. General practice is an art as well as a science. Quality of care lies also with the nature of the clinical relationship, with communication and with truly informed decision-making. *JPHC* publishes viewpoints, commentaries and reflections that explore areas of uncertainty on aspects of care for which there is no one right answer. Debate is stimulated by the *Back to Back* section where two professionals present their opposing views on a topic. There is a regular *Ethics* column. *Letters to the Editor* are welcomed.

While published in New Zealand by the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, much of this research has generic implications. Our Editorial Board comprises renowned and active primary care clinicians, clinical and scientific academics and health policy experts with both New Zealand and international representation.

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