

Operational Definitions for Urologic Nursing Manuscripts

Continuing Education — A manuscript containing information to enhance the knowledge of urologic nurses and associates. It is written in a format that allows the participant to read the article as a self-directed study for continuing education credit granted by SUNA, an accredited approver of continuing education. The participant must complete the post test that appears at the end of the manuscript and submit it to *Urologic Nursing* along with the stated registration fee.

General Clinical Practice — A manuscript written for the beginning or general urology nurse or associate that provides new or useful information related to general urology practices such as the development of a policy, procedure, or protocol.

Advanced Clinical Practice — A manuscript written for the advanced practitioner, or specialized urology nurse or technician that discusses highly technical or specialized skills or practice areas.

Case Study — A manuscript that describes a specific, urology-related patient situation and how the patient was managed by the urology care providers.

Research — A manuscript that describes a primary research study using the following format: purposes or research questions, significance of the study, literature review, population and sample, methods, data analysis, discussion of findings, conclusions, and implications for urology practice.

Advanced Research — A manuscript that follows the research format (described above) and focuses on instrument (tool), clinical practice guideline or theory development. Advanced research may also encompass a meta-analysis of a body of literature that integrates the findings of several studies.

Patient Education — A manuscript that describes a patient education tool such as a brochure, class, CD, DVD, computer program, or Internet sources. The manuscript may also describe a method for facilitating positive outcomes for patients following a urologic procedure or treatment.

Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Project—A manuscript that explores the state of the science related to a urologic clinical issue, concern, or problem through critical thinking and the systematic and careful analysis of current research literature in an effort to improve healthcare practices and outcomes. Findings, implications, possible interventions, and recommendations for urologic nursing practice are included. (clinical practice focused manuscript)

Systematic Review of the Literature—A manuscript that describes the methodical procedures used to identify and evaluate current literature for theoretical and research-based strategies to address a specific urologic question or problem. The methods often involve the use of critical appraisal strategies and result in an analysis and synthesis of current research evidence. Implications for urologic nursing practice and recommendations for further research are included. (theoretical focused manuscript)

Quality/Performance Improvement (QI/PI) Project—A manuscript that identifies methods used to evaluate an organizational system, providers of care, and/or patient outcomes for the purposes of improving the current status. Evaluation methods may be current, retrospective, or prospective methods such as Root Cause Analysis (RCA), Failure Mode Effects Analysis (FMEA), Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA), Define-Measure-Analyze-Improve-Control (DMAIC), Lean Six Sigma, or other processes. Implementation and results of the improvements are also described.