

Epi-Dis-PHERE-(Publication of Health Resilience) Quarterly e-Journal of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) is an open access peer-reviewed double-blinded multidisciplinary quarterly e-Journal to publish manuscripts ((based on quantitative, qualitative or mixed-method investigation approaches) in the following categories:

Epi-Dis- PHERE-(Publication of Health Resilience) does not charge any fees for article publication

1. Original Research Article
2. Review Article
3. Systematic Review (including Meta-analysis)
4. Research Briefs
5. Letter to Editor
6. From the Field
7. Perspective / view point
8. Research Correspondence
9. Editorials
10. Special Articles

1. Original Research Article:

1. Word Count & Formatting Guidelines

- Total Length: Preferably up to 3,000 words, excluding the Abstract and References.
- Display Items: Authors may submit up to 4 to 5 Tables and Figures in total. Inclusion of any additional figures or tables is subject to the discretion and approval of the Editorial Office upon article acceptance.

2. Abstract & Keywords

Every manuscript must include a structured abstract of a maximum of 250 words organized under the following four subheadings:

- Background & objectives
- Methods
- Results
- Interpretation & conclusions

Keywords: Follow the abstract with 5 to 8 keywords, arranged in alphabetical order.

3. Manuscript Structure

The main body of the article must be organized in the following sequential order:

- Introduction
- Material & Methods

- Results
- Discussion
- Acknowledgment (if any)
- References
- Tables
- Legends to Figures
- Figures

4. Ethical & Trial Compliance (Mandatory)

- Ethics Committee Approval: Formal approval from an institutional Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board (IRB) is mandatory for all studies involving human participants or animals. This approval must be explicitly stated within the *Material & Methods* section.
- Clinical Trial Registration: Registration of clinical trials is compulsory. The official trial registration number or Clinical Trial Registry (CTR) number must be provided in the manuscript.

2. Review Articles

1. Manuscript Specifications

- Word Count: Up to 3,000 words (excluding the Abstract and References).
- Abstract: A single, unstructured paragraph of approximately 250 words.
- References: Maximum of 100 references. Citations must be recent, highly relevant, and focused on the core subject matter.
- Tables & Figures: May be included based on the requirements of the text.

2. Required Content & Compliance

- The manuscript must contain a clear methodology section explicitly detailing the literature search strategy employed by the authors.
- Copyright Clearances: If any previously published table or figure is reproduced either in part or in whole, the authors must obtain formal copyright permission from the original copyright holder *in advance* of submission.

3. Systematic Reviews (including meta-analysis)

Submissions under this category must present critical appraisals of existing studies on topics of high clinical or public health significance. The goal is to obtain an unbiased, quantitative estimate of the overall effect of a specific intervention or variable on a defined outcome.

Core Topics: The review may focus on areas such as etiology (cause), diagnosis, prognosis, therapy, prevention, or other key public health variables.

Manuscripts must be thoroughly researched, providing a comprehensive, objective, and balanced perspective on the available data.

- Word Count: Up to 3,000 words (excluding the Abstract and References).
- Display Items: Authors should limit visual data to a minimum number of Tables and Figures necessary to support the findings.

Abstract guidelines

A structured abstract of a maximum of 250 words is mandatory and must include the following explicit sections:

1. Context: State the clinical question or public health issue and its overall significance.
2. Objective: Clearly define the primary goal of the review.
3. Evidence Acquisition: Detail the data sources utilized, exact search strategies employed, and the specific span of years searched.
4. Results: Summarize major findings, placing primary emphasis on the highest quality evidence available.
5. Limitations: Address any constraints, biases, or gaps identified in the gathered evidence.
6. Conclusions: Provide a clear takeaway regarding the application of this current knowledge by clinicians and public health practitioners.

4. Research brief

This category accommodates original research manuscripts with a well-defined study design and sample size, as well as submissions presenting preliminary investigative data. Studies with limited methodology or smaller sample sizes are acceptable under this format, provided they carry significant, immediate clinical or public health implications.

Manuscript Specifications

- Word Count: Manuscripts must be between 1,500 and 2,000 words (excluding Abstract and References).
- Display Items: Authors are limited to a maximum of 1 to 2 Tables or Figures in total.

Abstract Guidelines

- Length: Submissions must include a structured abstract of no more than 150 words.
- Structure: The abstract must follow the exact same 4-point structured format required for full Original Articles:
 1. Background & objectives
 2. Methods
 3. Results
 4. Interpretation & conclusions

5. Letter to Editor

- The journal welcomes letters discussing articles recently published in *Epi-Dis-PHERE*. Submissions must be received within **3 months** of the target article's publication date.
- Letters that are unrelated to articles published in the journal will not be considered for publication.
- Each letter must have a unique, title.
- Word Count is strictly limited to a maximum of **500 words**.
- Authors may include up to **5 recent and relevant references** to support their points.

6. From the Field

These reports are intended as short (up to 2000 words), early descriptions of ongoing or recent incidents such as outbreaks. A report 'from the field' should describe the background, the epidemiology of the incident, and describe planned or implemented control measures and next steps.

- Word Count: Up to 2,000 words.
- Abstract: Maximum 100 words.
- References: Maximum 15 references.
- Review Process: Fast-tracked peer review by a field expert to ensure rapid publication.
- Pre-submission: Authors are encouraged to consult the Editor regarding suitability before submitting.

7. Perspective / view point

- Word Count: Strictly limited to a maximum of 1,500 words (excluding Abstract and References).
- Abstract: A single, unstructured paragraph of no more than 150 words.
- Display Items: Authors may include a maximum of 2 structured Tables or Figures total.
- Article should address current controversial and challenging topics in health care.
- Authors must rigorously support their viewpoints with credible evidence and relevant scientific references.

8. Research Correspondence

This category is designed for the rapid communication of preliminary data, pilot studies, or post-implementation reports that provide valuable early insights into clinical or public health issues.

Manuscript Specifications

- Word Count: The main text should be approximately 1,000 words (excluding Abstract and References).
- Abstract: A single, unstructured paragraph of no more than 100 words is required.

- **Display Items:** Authors are strictly limited to a maximum of one display item—either one Table *or* one Figure.

9. Editorials

These articles provide expert commentary on high-priority current topics in healthcare or offer contextual insight into a specific research paper published within the same issue of the journal.

Manuscript Specifications

- **Word Count:** The text should be approximately 1,000 words.
- **Abstract:** No abstract is required.
- **References:** Authors may include up to 15 references, if required.

10.Special articles

This multi-disciplinary section features high-quality reviews and/or case studies addressing critical and evolving domains in healthcare. Eligible topics include:

- Medical Education
- Medical Ethics
- Health Economics
- Digital Health
- Any pertinent topics of current public health or clinical interest.

Manuscript Specifications

Authors must strictly adhere to the formatting, word count, reference limits and abstract criteria outlined in the Review Articles section of the journal instructions.

SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPT

Send all files directly via email to: **journalncdc@gmail.com**

(For additional template details or study-specific types, refer to the [NCDC Epi-Dis-PHERE Page](#))

Peer review process:

- **Initial Screening:** All submissions are checked by the Editorial Office for scope, completeness, and adherence to these Instructions for Authors before being sent for review; incomplete or non-compliant submissions are returned to the corresponding author without further processing.
- **Double-Blind Peer Review:** Manuscripts that pass initial screening are evaluated by a minimum of two independent, subject-matter reviewers; the identities of authors and reviewers are withheld from one another throughout the process.

- **Editorial Decision:** Based on reviewer recommendations, the Editor-in-Chief's decision – accept, minor revision, major revision, or reject – is communicated to the corresponding author, typically within 4 to 6 weeks of submission.
- **Revision:** Authors are ordinarily given 3 weeks to submit a revised manuscript together with a point-by-point response to reviewer and editor comments; manuscripts not resubmitted within this period may be treated as withdrawn.
- **Final Decision:** The decision of the Editor-in-Chief on a submitted manuscript is final.

Core Formatting Requirements

- **Language:** British (UK) English throughout.
- **Typography:** Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1.5 line spacing, fully justified.
- **Page Layout:** Portrait orientation with 2.5 cm margins on all sides.
- **Page Numbers:** Centered at the bottom of each page.
- **Abbreviations:** Expand on first use (with the acronym in parentheses) in the title, abstract, and main text **separately**. Minimize overall acronym usage.
- **Drug & Device Names:**
 - Use generic/non-proprietary names by default.
 - If using proprietary names, capitalize only the first letter and place the manufacturer's name in parentheses immediately after. **Do not** use symbol marks like TM, ®, or ©.
- **Units:** Use conventional metric units for length, area, mass, and volume.

Files Required for Submission

Prepare and attach the following **5 separate files** to your submission email:

1. Cover File / First Page File

Must be in .doc, .docx, or .rtf format (do not zip).

- **Cover Letter:** Addressed to the Chief Executive Editor, declaring that the article is not published or under consideration elsewhere (in whole or in part).
- **Title Details:**
 - Manuscript Type (e.g., *Original Article*, *Review Article*, *Special Article*, *Brief Research Article*, *Letter to Editor*)
 - Full Title & Short Running Title
- **Author Details:**
 - Full names, highest academic degrees, designations, and institutional/departmental affiliations.
 - Identification of the **Corresponding Author** with contact details.
 - Detailed Author Contribution statement.
- **Counts & Metadata:**
 - Total page count and total number of figures/photographs.

- Word count for the Abstract.
- Word count for the Main Text (excluding references, tables, and abstract).
- **Funding:** Source(s) of support (grants, equipment, drugs, etc.), if any.

2. Blinded Manuscript File

- Main body of the text, abstract, and references.
- **Crucial:** Ensure **no author names, affiliations, or identifying details** are included in this file to preserve double-blind peer review.

3. Tables & Figures File

- All visual graphics, illustrations, and structured tables placed together.
- **Figures:** Submit as high-resolution TIFF, PNG, or JPEG files (minimum 300 dpi); each figure must carry a concise legend, with all legends listed together on a separate 'Legends to Figures' page.
- **Tables:** Prepare in an editable Word or Excel format, not as images; each table should have a self-explanatory title, with abbreviations expanded in a footnote.

4. Ethical Clearance Certificate

- A scanned copy of the institutional ethics committee approval letter.

5. Undertaking & Copyright Form

Signed undertaking by all authors along with the copyright transfer agreement

Title Page Requirements

1. Article Information

- **Title of the Article:** Full title reflecting the scope and findings of the work.
- **Running Title:** Maximum of 40 characters (including spaces).

2. Author Details

For **all authors** who contributed to the work at the time of the study:

- **Full Name:** First name and Surname.
- **Academic Credentials:** Highest academic degrees.
- **Designations:** Professional titles at the time the work was conducted.
- **Contact Information:** Mobile numbers and email addresses.

3. Institutional Affiliation

- **Department(s) and Institution(s):** Specify where the work should be attributed based on the **institution of affiliation at the time of conduct of the study** (not current affiliations, if different).

4. Corresponding Author

- **Name:** Full name of the designated corresponding author.
- **Address:** Complete institutional postal address.
- **Email:** Active professional email address.

5. Administrative & Declaratory Statements

- **Funding:** Disclosure of all sources of support, including grants, equipment, drugs, or financial backing.
- **Conflict of Interest:** A signed declaration from every author disclosing any financial, professional, or personal relationship that could be perceived as influencing the work, or an explicit statement that no such conflict exists.
- **Ethical Clearance Status:** Name of the Ethics Committee (must be registered with the regulatory body), date of approval, and clearance reference number.
- **Clinical Trial Registration:** Official trial registration number (mandatory for all clinical trials).
- **Data Sharing Statement:** Required for all original research manuscripts detailing the availability and access terms of study data.
- **Declaration of AI Use:** Explicit statement regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) or AI-assisted technologies in scientific writing.

6. Manuscript Metrics & Disclaimers

- **Word Count:** Total word count excluding the abstract, tables, figures, acknowledgments, key messages, and references.
- **Tables and Figures Count:** Total number of tables and total number of figures included in the manuscript.
- **Disclaimers:** Any necessary legal, institutional, or personal disclaimers.

Authorship Criteria

All listed authors must fulfill **all four** of the following criteria:

- **Substantial Contributions:** Significant contributions to the conception, design, data acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of the work.
- **Drafting and Revision:** Drafting the manuscript or critically revising it for important intellectual content.

- **Final Approval:** Final approval of the version destined for publication.
- **Accountability:** Accountability for all aspects of the work, ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part are appropriately investigated and resolved.
- **Group Authorship:** When a manuscript lists only the name of a group, all members of that group must fulfil the authorship criteria. When individual authors are named along with the group using “and” or “&,” both the named individuals and all group members must meet the authorship criteria. When the group name is linked to the named authors using “for,” only the named individuals are required to meet the authorship criteria. Other group members should be listed as collaborators in an annexure.
- **Change in Authorship:** The list and order of authors must be finalized prior to submission. *Epi-Dis-PHERE* maintains a strict policy prohibiting any changes to authorship after a manuscript has been submitted.
- **Declaration of AI in Scientific Writing:** Generative AI technologies and Large Language Models (such as ChatGPT) may be used exclusively for language improvement but must be documented in the methods section. AI tools cannot be listed as authors.
- **Funding Disclosure:** Authors must explicitly disclose all financial and material support for the research, including specific funding agencies and grant numbers.
- **Duplicate, Simultaneous, and Prior Publication:**
 - Submission to the journal certifies that the work is original, has not been published previously, and is not currently under consideration elsewhere.
 - Any prior publication (such as conference abstracts or academic theses) must be fully disclosed upfront in the cover letter.
 - All authors must affirm that the manuscript is original work conducted at their affiliated institution, and that they have all reviewed and approved the final version before submission to *Epi-Dis-PHERE*.
- **Plagiarism and Similarity Check:** All submissions are screened with standard plagiarism-detection software prior to peer review. Manuscripts with a similarity index exceeding 15% (excluding references, standard methodology text, and quotations) are returned to the authors or rejected; suspected plagiarism, data fabrication, or falsification identified at any stage is handled in accordance with COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) guidelines and may result in rejection or retraction.
- **Preprint Policy:** *Epi-Dis-PHERE* will consider manuscripts previously posted on a recognized preprint server, provided this is declared in the cover letter; on acceptance, the preprint record should be updated to link to the final published version.

Guidelines for Manuscript Structure and Formatting

- **Blinded Manuscript File:** Ensure that no author names, institutional affiliations, or identifying details appear anywhere within the manuscript file.
- **Structured Abstract:** Original and Brief Research articles require a 4-point structured abstract that remains concise while highlighting the study's scope and key findings.

- **Keywords:** Provide 5 to 8 appropriate keywords in alphabetical order directly beneath the abstract.
- **Introduction Section:**
 - Keep the background concise, covering what is currently known, the existing gaps or lacunae, and the specific aim or objectives of the work.
 - Limit the literature review strictly to the rationale for the study, concluding with a clearly stated and justified study objective.
- **Methods Section:**
 - Incorporate key operational details, including study setting, duration, population, design, participant selection, outcome variables, sample size, intervention and follow-up, statistical analysis, and ethical considerations.
 - Provide comprehensive and complete descriptions for any novel methods or apparatus used.
- **Use of Artificial Intelligence in Research:**
 - If AI technology was utilized in conducting the study, detail its application in the methods section with sufficient granularity to allow replication.
 - Specify the exact tool, version, and prompts used where applicable.

Policy on Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies

- **Mandatory Disclosure:** Authors utilizing generative AI or AI-assisted technologies for manuscript writing, image creation, graphical elements, data collection, or data analysis must transparently disclose which tool was used and the specific manner of its use.
- Authors retain full responsibility for the entire content of the submitted manuscript—including any AI-generated portions—and remain fully liable for any violations of publication ethics.
- The specific AI tool utilized and its intended purpose must be clearly documented in either the Methods or the Acknowledgments section.

For additional guidance, consult the.

Guidelines for Clinical Trials, Study Design, and Statistics

- **Clinical Trials (RCTs):** Manuscripts on randomized controlled trials must include a CONSORT flow diagram to illustrate participant progress throughout the study.
- **Trial Registration:** All interventional studies must state their registration status and registration number directly on the title page.
- **Study Design and Selection:**
 - Clearly describe the selection of participants or laboratory animals (including controls, random or consecutive sampling), eligibility criteria, exclusion criteria, and the source population.

- Explicitly state the basis used for the sample size calculation.
- **Statistical Analysis:**
 - Detail the statistical methods used and report the statistical significance of findings where applicable.
 - Provide comprehensive details for new or uncommon statistical methods, whereas standard or routine methods require only authentic references.
 - Specify any general-use computer software programs utilized for the analysis.

Ethical Guidelines for Research

- Research involving human participants or animals must follow the ethical standards set by national bodies or organizations of the country where the study was conducted (e.g., ICMR Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research on Human Participants for research in India).
- **Institutional Ethics Clearance:**
 - All studies require written clearance from an Institutional Ethics Committee.
 - Provide the ethics committee name, date, and reference number on the title page.
 - Include a brief statement of ethical clearance (without specific details) in the Methods section and upload a copy of the official document.
- Obtain written informed consent from all human participants, and secure child assent for clinical studies involving children over six years old.
- **Anonymity and Confidentiality:** Protect participant privacy by strictly avoiding names, initials, or hospital numbers, particularly in illustrative materials and figures.

Results

- Include only essential data required to understand the discussion and main conclusions.
- Do not repeat data from tables and figures in the text, and never present the same data in both tabular and graphic forms.
- Emphasize or summarize only key observations in the Results section; reserve all data interpretation for the Discussion section.
- Limit tables and figures to those strictly necessary to support the argument. Use graphs as an alternative to large tables.
- Use standard abbreviations adhering strictly to the International System of Units (SI) across text, tables, and figures.

Discussion

- Results must be interpreted clearly and transparently.
- Authors must openly address the study's weaknesses, limitations, and remaining gaps.

- Recommendations can be included only when they are directly relevant and solidly backed by the study's findings.
- The section should wrap up with a definitive concluding statement directly tied to the original study objectives.
- Ensure all claims and conclusions are strictly supported by the data; avoid overstatement.

Guidelines for Referencing and Citations

- Authors must cite original research sources directly, prioritizing full, published articles over abstracts. AI-generated content is strictly prohibited as a primary source.
- References must be numbered consecutively in the exact order they first appear in the manuscript.
- Indicate citations in the main text, tables, and figure legends using superscript Arabic numerals.
- References cited exclusively within a table or figure legend must be numbered based on the sequence where that specific table or figure is first mentioned in the main text.
- **Formatting and Style:**
 - Remove all hyperlinks from the reference list.
 - Abbreviate journal titles according to the PubMed format.
 - Use full journal titles for any journals not indexed in MEDLINE/PubMed.

Reference Style (Vancouver / ICMJE Format)

List references in the Vancouver style used by MEDLINE/PubMed. A few common examples:

- **Journal article:** Patel R, Gupta S, Rao M. Trends in vector-borne disease surveillance in India. Epi-Dis-PHERE. 2025;3(2):45-52.
- **Book:** Park K. Park's Textbook of Preventive and Social Medicine. 27th ed. Jabalpur: Banarsidas Bhanot; 2023.
- **Chapter in a book:** Sharma A. Outbreak investigation. In: Singh J, editor. Field Epidemiology. 2nd ed. New Delhi: Publisher; 2022. p. 112-30.
- **Website / online source:** National Centre for Disease Control. Epi-Dis-PHERE author guidelines [Internet]. New Delhi: NCDC; 2026 [cited 2026 Aug 28]. Available from: <https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in>

Copyright and Licensing

- Upon acceptance, the corresponding author, on behalf of all co-authors, must sign the journal's Undertaking & Copyright Transfer Form (see 'Files Required for Submission').
- As an open-access journal, articles are published under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, permitting free reuse for non-commercial purposes provided the original work is appropriately credited.

Proofs and Publication

- Page proofs (PDF) are sent to the corresponding author for a final check of typographical and factual accuracy; substantive changes to content are not permitted at the proof stage.
- Corrected proofs should be returned within 72 hours of receipt; if no response is received within this period, the Editorial Office may proceed with publication as submitted.

Article Withdrawal, Correction, and Retraction Policy

- A request to withdraw a manuscript after submission must be made in writing by all authors to the Editorial Office and is granted only for exceptional, clearly justified reasons.
- Post-publication corrections (errata/corrigenda) and retractions are handled in accordance with the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

Author Submission Checklist

Before emailing your submission, please confirm that you have included:

- A cover letter addressed to the Chief Executive Editor, declaring the work is original and not under consideration elsewhere.
- A title page with full author details, corresponding author contact information, funding, conflict of interest, ethics/trial-registration, AI-use, and data-sharing statements.
- A blinded manuscript file containing no author names, affiliations, or other identifying details.
- An abstract (structured or unstructured, as required by the article type) within the specified word limit, followed by keywords.
- A separate Tables & Figures file, correctly formatted per the specifications above.
- A scanned Ethical Clearance Certificate, where applicable.
- A signed Undertaking & Copyright Transfer Form.
- References formatted in Vancouver/ICMJE style and numbered consecutively in order of first citation.
- Confirmation that the manuscript conforms to the word-count and display-item limits for the chosen article category.