

# Comparison of the attention of reporting guidelines and trial registration in nursing journals in recent seven years

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## Background

Reporting guidelines listed at the website of the EQUATOR network, such as CONSORT and PRISMA, are known to improve reliability of medical research literature by promoting transparent and accurate reporting of research studies. Similarly, trial registration improved research transparency and will ultimately strengthen the validity and value of the scientific evidence base. Most biomedical journals require authors to ensure that the manuscript includes all the information recommended in the relevant reporting guidelines, and support clinical trial registration policies by the World Health Organization. However, the attention of reporting guidelines and trial registration in nursing journals is unclear.

## Objectives

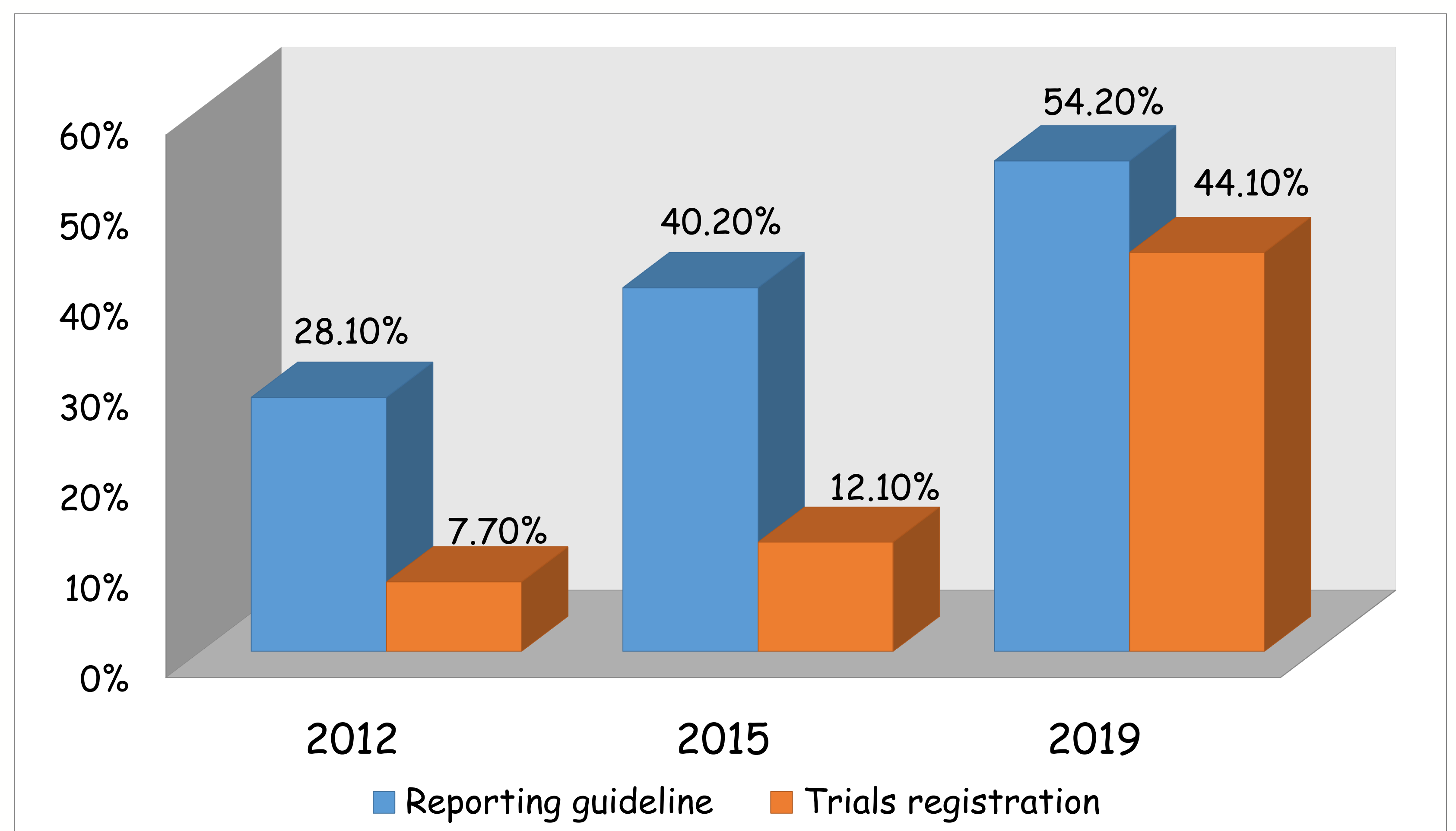
- The study is aimed to evaluate the editorial policy of nursing journals in the basic requirements for reporting guidelines and trial registration in recent seven years.

## Method

- The "Instructions for Authors" of nursing journals included in ISI Web of Science was reviewed for evidence of an editorial policy on the reporting guidelines and trial registration in March 2012, March 2015 and March 2019.

## Results

- Of 89 nursing journals examined in 2012, 25 (28.1%) required authors to comply the recommendation in the relevant reporting guidelines, and only 7 (7.7%) required clinical trial registration.
- In 2015, reporting guidelines were required in 43/107 (40.2%) journals, and trial registration were demanded in 13/107 (12.1%) journals. In 2019, 118 nursing journals were evaluated, 64 (54.2 %) need authors to follow the reporting guidelines, and 52 (44.1 %) will not consider the trials for publication unless they were registered prospectively before recruitment of any participants.



## Conclusion

- Although improvement in recent years, half of nursing journals still do not require the authors to comply the recommendation of relevant reporting guidelines, nor claim the need of trial registration prior to the start of patient enrollment in a clinical study. For the purpose of improve reliability of nursing research literatures, there is a need for nursing journals to post a requirement on the reporting guidelines and trial registration.

