

## AUSTRALIAN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

# PRIMARY HEALTH CARE JOURNALS

### INTRODUCTION

Primary Health Care (PHC) is a vast and variable topic, covering issues from access to services and Indigenous health, to telemedicine and the latest advances in chronic health care modelling. As Primary Health Care is directly related to secondary and tertiary health care services, public health initiatives, governmental policy, Primary Health Care papers are published in a wide range of journals.

The great strength in this is that more people from a large number of sectors can become informed about the latest advances in, and information on, Primary Health Care. However, the weakness in this is in discerning which journals will be read by your target audience. In this instance both experience and published papers reference lists are invaluable.

The Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute completes and commissions numerous systematic reviews each year, through different research streams employing many search strategies. This paper outlines a retrospective study of the reference lists used in Stream Four research papers. This information can be utilised to determine which journals are more likely to contain information, and publish papers, on the APHCRI research domains.

### METHODOLOGY

The reference lists from all papers published to date by the APHCRI Stream Four Spokes were examined for the frequency of any journal referenced, resulting in 377 journals. Any journal referenced less than five times was disregarded, leaving 81 journals. These were then detailed regarding most frequently referenced by domain:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (ATSI PHC)<sup>1, 2</sup>
- Adolescent/Child Health (ACH)<sup>3</sup>
- Chronic Disease Management (CDM)<sup>4-7</sup>
- Rural and Remote Primary Health Care (RRPHC)<sup>6, 8</sup>
- Mental Health (MH)<sup>2, 9, 10</sup>
- Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT)<sup>11-13</sup>
- Primary Health Care Models/Delivery (PHCMD)<sup>14-16</sup>
- Workforce (WF)<sup>17</sup>

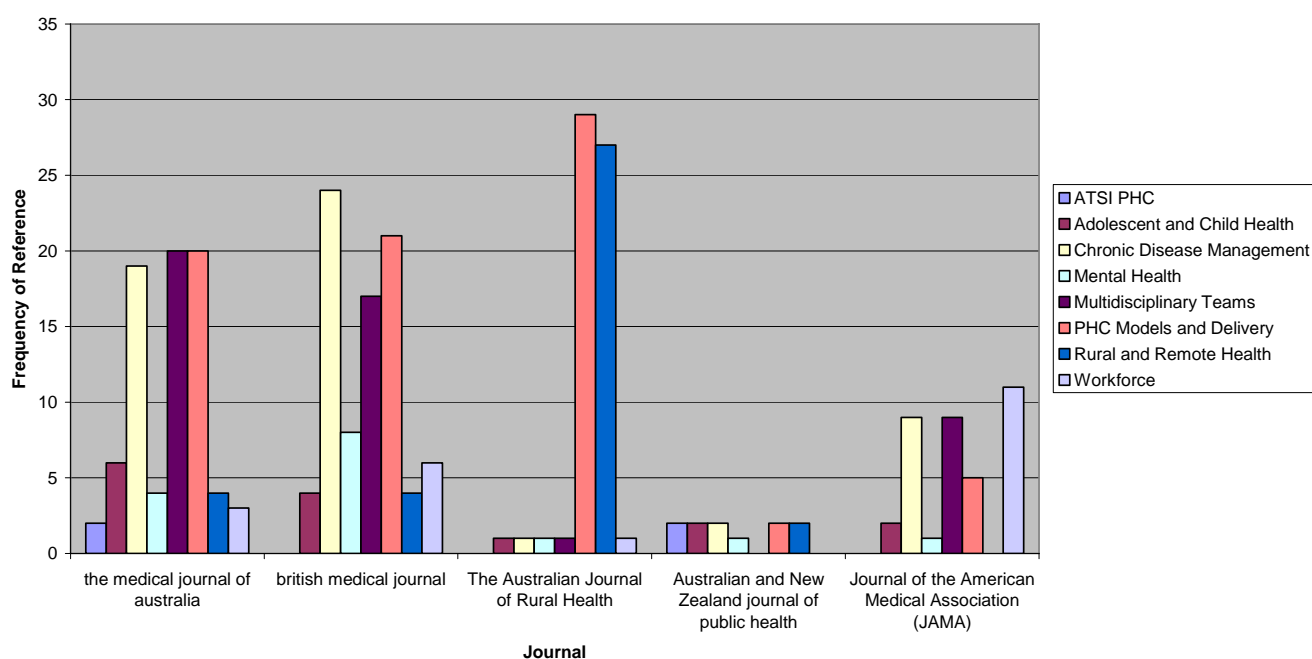
The journals which referenced papers from all eight research domains were explored.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### FREQUENCY OF REFERENCING ACROSS DOMAINS

Overall, the five most frequently referenced journals across all domains included The Medical Journal of Australia, The British Medical Journal, The Australian Journal of Rural Health, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, and Journal of the American Medical Association (See Figure 1). Figure 2 shows the distribution of papers across domains for the top 22 journals.

Figure 1: Five Most Frequently Referenced Journals (Across Domains)



By Figure 1, it would be easy to suppose that any one of these journals would publish any paper. It is hardly surprising that the best place to submit a paper on rural and remote PHC is The Australian Journal of Rural Health. However, this is not always the case (See Figure 2). While some journals contain a great deal of information on one or two of the APHCRI Stream Four domains, they may publish little to nothing on the rest. As an example, it may end up being more productive submitting a paper on Multidisciplinary Teams to The Medical Journal of Australia or The Australian Health Review, rather than The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health. Or again, from the results, The Journal of the American Medical Association is more likely to publish papers on Workforce than on rural and remote Primary Health Care or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care. – some journals will be known by cap T or lower case T make sure you have the right one – otherwise be consistent.

Figure 2: The 22 Most Frequently Referenced Journals by Domain

Journals	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care	Adolescent Child Health	Chronic Disease Management	Mental Health	Multi-disciplinary Teams	Primary Health Care Mode and Delivery	Rural and Remote Primary Health Care	Workforce
The Medical Journal of	2	6	19	4	20	20	4	3

Australia								
The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition	11	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lancet	2	1	3	0	3	1	0	0
Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health	2	2	2	1	0	2	2	0
The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews	3	1	18	0	4	5	0	7
Journal of Interprofessional Care	3	0	0	3	3	2	0	0
Journal of Advanced Nursing	1	0	0	1	1	4	2	1
Journal of Health Services Research & Policy	0	2	0	0	5	9	0	4
Annals of Internal Medicine	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	1
British Medical Journal	0	4	24	8	17	21	4	6
Journal of the American Medical Association	0	2	9	1	9	5	0	11
The Journal of Family Practice	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1
Patient Education and Counseling	0	2	9	0	1	0	0	1
The British Journal of General Practice	0	1	8	1	6	2	0	3
The Australian Journal of Rural Health	0	1	1	1	1	29	27	1
Family Practice	0	1	4	0	5	1	0	1
Australia and New Zealand Health Policy	0	1	3	0	1	3	0	0
Australian Family Physician	0	0	8	0	12	11	3	0
Australian Health Review	0	0	5	0	15	13	11	0
Medical Care	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	1
Health Affairs	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	1
Disease Management & Health Outcomes	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	1

The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry	0	0	0	4	1	2	2	0
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## FREQUENCY OF REFERENCING WITHIN DOMAINS

Figure 3 details the top few journals referenced for each domain. Again, there are some journal predictable frequencies (Behaviour Change publishing more articles regarding mental health), and others that are less so (The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition publishing the more articles regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care than The Medical Journal of Australia). Given the specificity of some of the Stream Four papers, it is not surprising that some of the frequently referenced journals are specialised (eg: Thorax, Stroke, Diabetes Care) (See Appendix).

<b>Figure 3: The three most popular journals for each domain</b>			
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care</b>	<b>Adolescent and Child Health</b>	<b>Chronic Disease Management</b>	<b>Rural and Remote Primary Health Care</b>
The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition The Journal of Nutrition	Pediatrics International Journal of Obesity Preventive medicine	British medical Journal The Medical Journal of Australia Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews Respiratory Medicine	The Australian Journal of Rural Health Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare Australian Health Review
<b>Mental Health</b>	<b>Multi-Disciplinary Teams</b>	<b>Primary Health Care Modes of Delivery</b>	<b>Workforce</b>
British Medical Journal Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology Behaviour Change	The Medical Journal of Australia British Medical Journal Australian Health Review	The Australian Journal of Rural Health British medical Journal The Medical Journal of Australia	Academic Medicine Journal of the American Medical Association The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

## CONCLUSION

Whatever the research when submitting a paper for publication, it is important to carefully understand which journals have a particular interest in your field. The APHCRI Stream Four research reference lists indicate Primary Health Care is more likely to be published in The Medical Journal of Australia, The British Medical Journal, The Australian Journal of Rural Health, Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health and Journal of the American Medical Association. Papers from each domain used references from journals related specifically to their topic, and journals that cover a broad range of topics related to the domain. For more specific information relating to which journals are more likely to publish in particular domains, see Figure 3 and Appendix.

A potential limitation in the methodology is that Stream Four researchers used mainly medically related databases such as pubmed, MEDLINE, and CDSR. These do not necessarily contain the same papers as allied health databases like CINAHL and as such, may skew the results in favour of more medically related journals. Also, the papers published in Stream Four were on specific areas of a particular domain. For example, all the Stream Four papers published on Adolescent and Child Health were related to childhood obesity. As a result the journals referenced contain articles specifically related to childhood obesity, but do not necessarily have the same coverage of childhood asthma. This may explain the paucity of referencing from some journals known to have special interests in the Stream Four domains. However, the principle of searching reference lists of review articles related to each area of interest remains the same. APHCRI would recommend the use of any of our research paper reference lists to this end.

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## APPENDIX: MOST FREQUENTLY REFERENCED JOURNALS FOR EACH CATEGORY

### Chronic Disease Management

British Medical Journal – 24  
The Medical Journal of Australia – 19  
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews – 17  
Respiratory Medicine – 17  
Chest – 16  
Primary Care Respiratory Journal – 12  
Thorax – 11  
American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine – 9  
The Journal of the American Medical Association – 9  
Patient Education and Counseling – 9  
The British Journal of General Practice – 8  
Australian Family Physician – 8  
Internal Medicine – 8  
The European Respiratory Journal – 8  
Canadian Respiratory Journal – 5  
Diabetes Care – 5

### Mental Health

British Medical Journal – 8  
Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology – 7  
Behaviour Change – 7  
The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry – 4

### Workforce

Academic Medicine – 13  
Journal of the American Medical Association – 11  
The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews – 7  
British Medical Journal – 6

### Adolescent/child health

Pediatrics – 19  
International Journal of Obesity – 13  
Preventive Medicine – 8

Obesity Reviews – 7

Obesity Research – 6

Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition – 5

Health Promotion Journal of Australia – 5

## **Rural and Remote Health**

The Australian Journal of Rural Health – 27

Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare – 23

Australian Health Review – 11

Australian Journal of Primary Health Interchange – 9

Australian Journal of Primary Health – 9

## **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PHC**

The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition – 11

The Journal of Nutrition – 9

## **Multidisciplinary Teams**

The Medical Journal of Australia – 20

British Medical Journal – 17

Australian Health Review – 15

Journal of the American Geriatrics Society – 13

Australian Family Physician – 12

International Journal of Integrated Care – 11

The American Journal of Managed Care – 10

Journal of the American Medical Association – 9

Health & Social Care in the Community – 6

The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews – 6

The British Journal of General Practice – 6

Archives of Internal Medicine – 6

Clinical Rehabilitation – 6

Australian Journal of Primary Health – 6

Nursing Times – 6

Journal of Health Services Research & Policy – 5

The American Journal of Medicine – 5

Diabetes Care – 5

Family Practice – 5

Age & Ageing – 5

Stroke – 5



## **Primary Health Care Models/Delivery**

The Australian Journal of Rural Health – 29

British Medical Journal – 21

The Medical Journal of Australia – 20

Australian Health Review – 13

Australian Journal of Primary Health Interchange – 10

Australian Journal of Primary Health – 10

Journal of Health Services Research & Policy – 9

Australian Family Physician – 9

New Zealand Medical Journal – 7

Journal of the American Medical Association – 5

Health & Social Care in the Community – 5

The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews – 5