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## International Journal of Nursing Studies

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/ijns](http://www.elsevier.com/ijns)

## Shift work in nursing special issue: call for papers

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A high proportion of nurses worldwide are engaged in shift work. The challenge of ensuring that the nursing workforce is scheduled cost-effectively while minimising negative consequences for staff and patient safety is considerable. This special issue of the world's leading nursing journal, the International Journal of Nursing Studies, aims to bring together studies and reviews exploring the effect of shift work on staff, patient and organisational outcomes.

We welcome original research and reviews that address gaps in knowledge related to all aspects of shift work including fixed or rotating shifts; presence/frequency of night shifts; total hours worked per week; shift length; rest breaks; number of consecutive shifts; number of early morning shifts; and time between consecutive shifts, including quick returns (<11 hours between two consecutive shifts). We particularly welcome studies that are:

- Based on objective data: with the increase of electronic rosters and registries, the number of studies using such data collection tools rather than self-reported questionnaires is still limited. The same is true for outcomes including sickness absence, and patient outcomes.
- Able to confirm temporality: studies using longitudinal designs which can shed light on the temporal impact of shift work characteristics, for example interrupted time series or difference in difference models.
- Evaluating planned change: studies looking at the impact of changing shift characteristics, with robust evaluations post change.
- Clarifying the role of mediating factors: studies considering increased fatigue and lack of sleep as hypothesised mediating factors between negative shift characteristics and adverse outcomes for patients and nurses.

We also welcome scoping and systematic reviews, and papers adopting qualitative designs aiming to investigate the modifiable aspects of shift patterns, and which shed light on the personal factors likely affecting choice of shift patterns.

Submitted articles should not be published or under review elsewhere. All submissions will be subject to the journal's standard peer review process. Criteria for acceptance include originality, contribution, scientific merit and relevance to the field of interest of the Special Issue.

All papers should be submitted via the regular route at <https://ees.elsevier.com/ijns/>. Authors should indicate that the paper is being submitted for consideration for publication in this special issue, selecting the "Shift work in nursing" special issue article type; otherwise the submission will be handled as a regular manuscript. For author guidelines, please visit the website of the journal: <https://www.elsevier.com/journals/international-journal-of-nursing-studies/0020-7489/guide-for-authors>.

- Paper Submission by 31 January 2020
- Revised papers to be submitted by 30 June 2020
- Expected publication September 2020

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2019.103499>  
0020-7489