# Guidelines for the Clinical Paper

Overall, a clinical paper is a synthesis of primary sources (primarily research studies) on a given topic. The purpose of the paper is to **identify, analyze, and synthesize** key findings surrounding a clinical challenge, dilemma, or controversy from the perspective of advanced nursing practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Introduction**         | • Describe the problem and the specific clinical challenge, dilemma or controversy (keep the scope narrow)  
                          • Justify the importance of the problem including relevant citations and discuss why there is a management challenge or controversy associated with the problem.  
                          • State the purpose of your paper                                                                                                                                                                     |
| **Background & Review of Literature** | • Provide an overview of the specific clinical challenge, dilemma or controversy, including its nature/scope, relevant history, and the context within which the issue exists.  
                          • Describe the epidemiologic, pathophysiologic, social and clinical context necessary for understanding the problem.  
                          • Describe the types of clinical interventions (or evidence) or approaches that may exist to address the problem, including the current standard of care.  
                          • Compare and contrast relevant studies including limitations or gaps in the evidence as related to the purpose of your paper.                                                                 |
| **Discussion**          | *(This is a major section of the paper.)*  
                          • Analyze, interpret, and synthesize key findings in the review of the literature (i.e., state of the science)  
                          • Take a position and recommend a specific approach (such as a management strategy) for the challenge/controversy or,  
                          • Outline the protocol to best meet the clinical practice challenge or controversy                                                                                                                                 |
| **Conclusions (Including Recommendations)** | • Describe key connections between your major points and the purpose of your paper, that is, how they help to answer the problem or current controversy in clinical practice.  
                          • Discuss recommendations relative to the original challenge, or controversy in clinical practice, for example directions for future research.                                                                 |
| **References**          | • List all references cited in paper  
                          • The majority of references should be research and evidence-based articles published within the past 5 years                                                                                                                                 |
| **Appendices**          | • Copy of protocol, algorithms or other documents developed as part of the paper                                                                                                                                 |

2017