



Lack of Reporting Guidelines and Clinical Trial Registration In Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

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INTRODUCTION

Research surrounding Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) is a growing field, yet previous studies have shown that the quality of evidence regarding research in PM&R is deficient and can be attributed to poor methodological quality of the research and lack of reporting guidelines. Reporting guidelines and clinical trial registration have been shown to improve scientific research by ameliorating bias and promoting transparency.

PURPOSE

To assess the top 100 journals in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation to determine the requirement/recommendation for authorship use of reporting guidelines and clinical trial registration.

METHODS

Top 100 journals in PM&R using the 2021 Scopus CiteScore tool.

A standardized email was sent to each journal inquiring what study designs they do not accept.

In a blind, duplicate fashion, two investigators explored the submission guidelines of each included journal for data extraction.



RESULTS

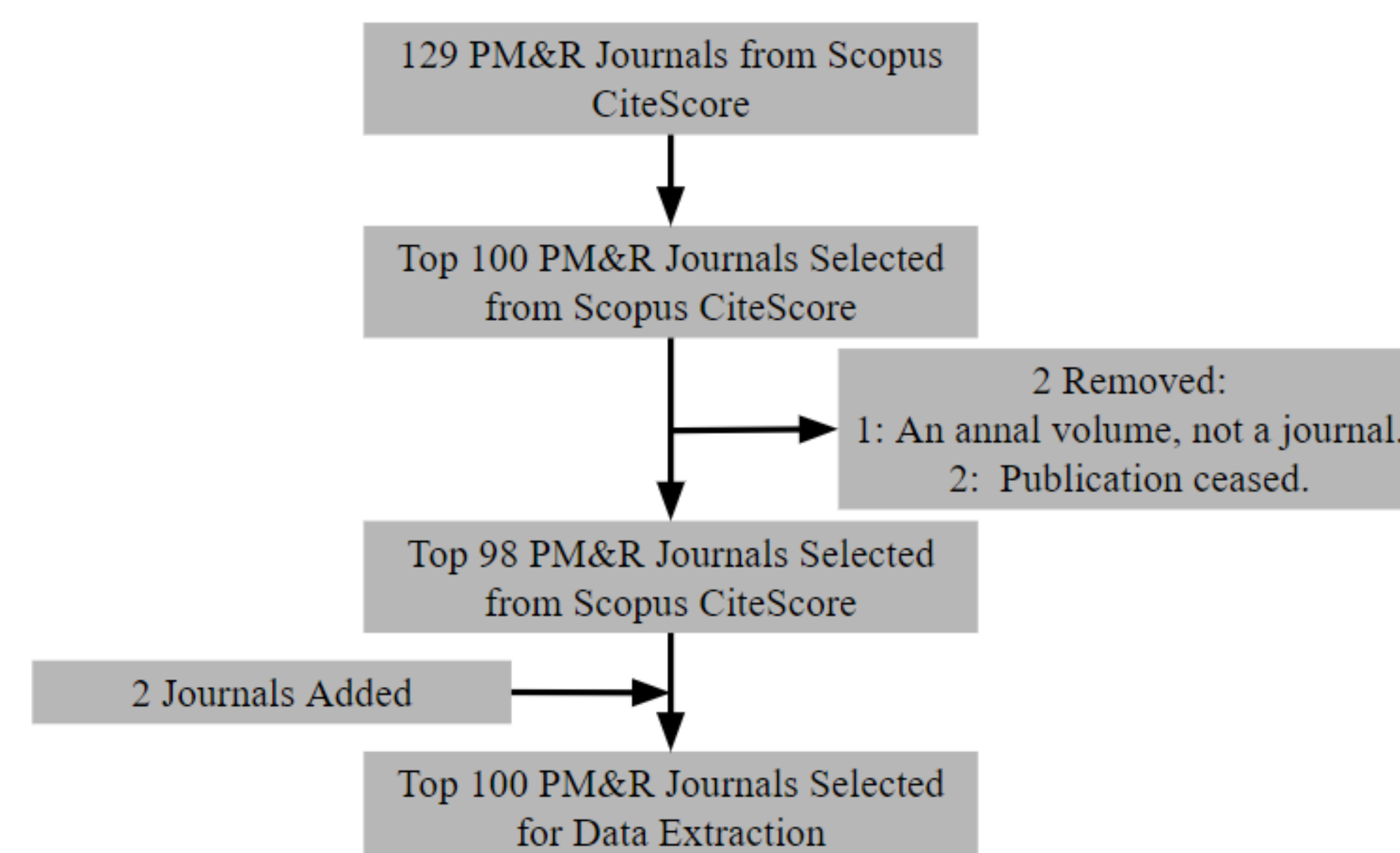


Figure 1: PRISMA flow diagram demonstrating the journal selection process.

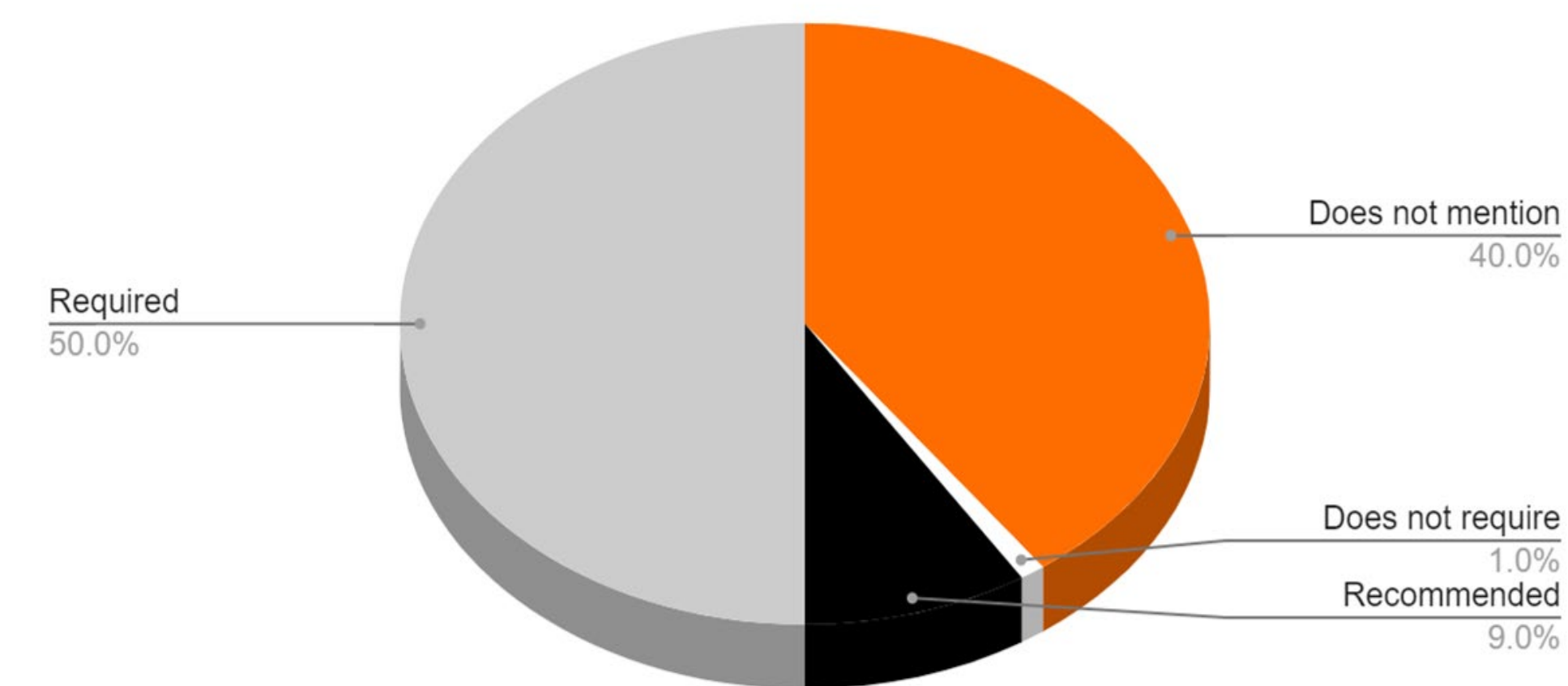


Figure 2: Representation of the top 100 journals and their degree of reference to clinical trial registration.

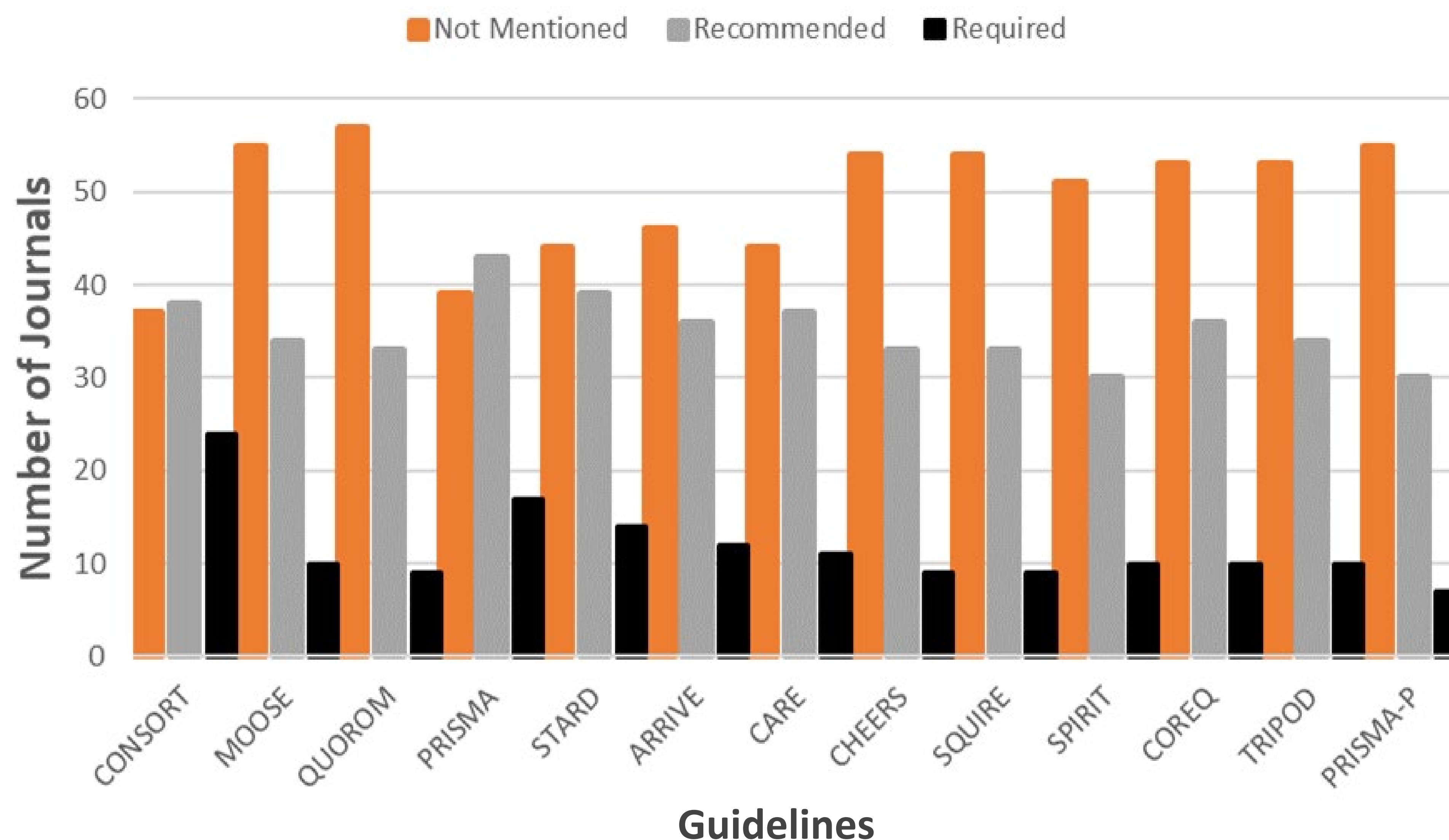


Figure 3: Representation of the top 100 journals and their degree of reference to reporting guidelines.

CONCLUSION

Our investigation into the top 100 journals of PM&R found that the majority of journals do not require reporting guidelines and only half require clinical trial registration. Further, we found the mentioning of specific reporting guidelines to be largely variable. Journals should adopt more rigorous policies in regard to adherence to reporting guidelines and clinical trial registration in efforts to enhance research within PM&R.

CLINICAL RELEVANCE

Given the position research takes in clinical decision making, it is to the interest of all parties that journals ensure the research that they publish to be of high quality. Adherence to reporting guidelines and clinical trial registration has been shown to improve the quality of evidence based medicine.

REFERENCES



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