



Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences Reporting Guideline and Clinical Trial Registration Adherence in Nephrology Journals: Results of a Preliminary Systematic Review



Patrick Crotty, B.S., Carson Wright, Haley Howard, B.S., Caleb Smith, B.S., Danya Nees, B.S., Griffin Hughes, B.A., B.S., Matt Vassar, Ph.D.

Background

Clinicians rely on relevant, high-quality research to inform their decisions regarding patient care¹. This research is held to a higher standard when journals implement reporting guidelines and clinical trial registration into article submission requirements². Due to the small number of nephrology journals — and the growing yet still limited research in the field — it is of the utmost importance for these journals to apply stringent guidelines to ensure the publication of limited bias and high quality research. However, the extent of reporting guideline adoption and clinical trial registration policies among nephrology journals is unknown. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to examine the recommendation or requirement of reporting guidelines and clinical trial registration in nephrology journals.

Methods

- The 2021 Scopus CiteScore Tool was used to identify 62 journals in the “Nephrology” subcategory.
- In a masked, duplicate fashion, we examined the “Instructions for Authors” webpage of each included journal
- We determined whether the journal reporting guidelines were “Not mentioned”, “Recommended”, “Required”, or “Does Not Require”.
- Stata 17.0 was used to analyze the data. To minimize bias, all journals were contacted to confirm their accepted article types.

Results

Guideline	Not Mentioned	Recommended	Required
CONSORT	17 (27%)	34 (55%)	11 (18%)
MOOSE	36 (58%)	18 (29%)	8 (13%)
QUOROM	62 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
PRISMA	27 (44%)	27 (44%)	8 (13%)
STARD	32 (53%)	21 (35%)	7 (12%)
STROBE	27 (44%)	28 (45%)	7 (11%)
ARRIVE	27 (45%)	24 (40%)	9 (15%)
CARE	29 (48%)	28 (46%)	3 (4.9%)
CHEERS	33 (54%)	21 (34%)	7 (11%)
SRQR	34 (56%)	21 (34%)	6 (9.8%)
SQUIRE	33 (54%)	23 (38%)	5 (8.2%)
SPIRIT	33 (54%)	23 (38%)	5 (8.2%)
COREQ	32 (52%)	25 (41%)	4 (6.6%)
TRIPOD	32 (52%)	23 (38%)	4 (6.7%)
PRISMA-P	36 (60%)	19 (32%)	5 (8.3%)

Table 1.1 Journal Guideline Reporting Data

- The most frequently mentioned guidelines were CONSORT, STROBE, and PRISMA.
- The least frequently mentioned guidelines were QUOROM (0/62, 0%), PRISMA-P (24/60, 40%), and MOOSE (26/62, 42%).
- Finally, 32 (52%) of journals required and 19 (31%) of journals recommended clinical trial registration.

Equator Network

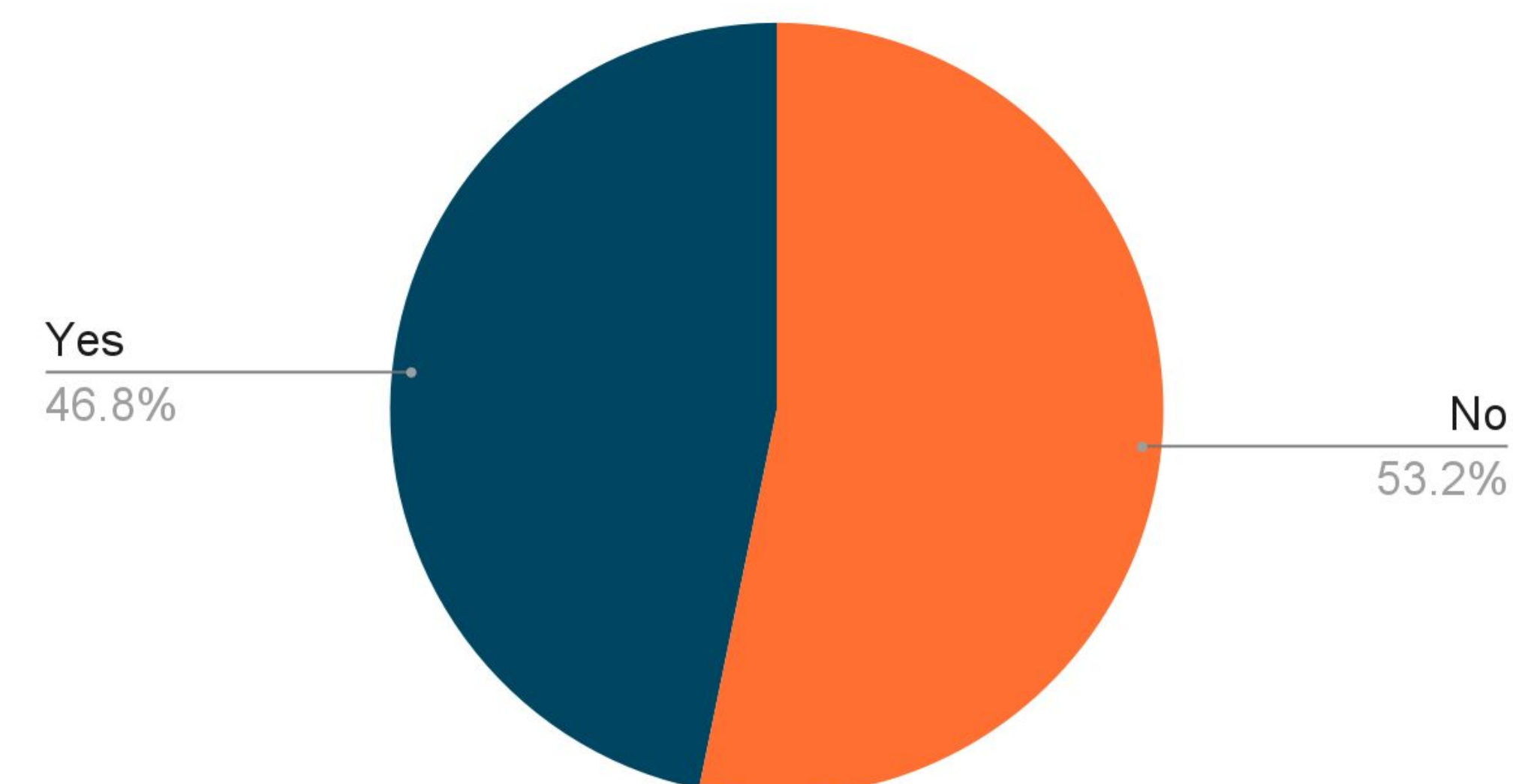


Figure 1.1 Journal Equator Statement

Clinical Trial Registration

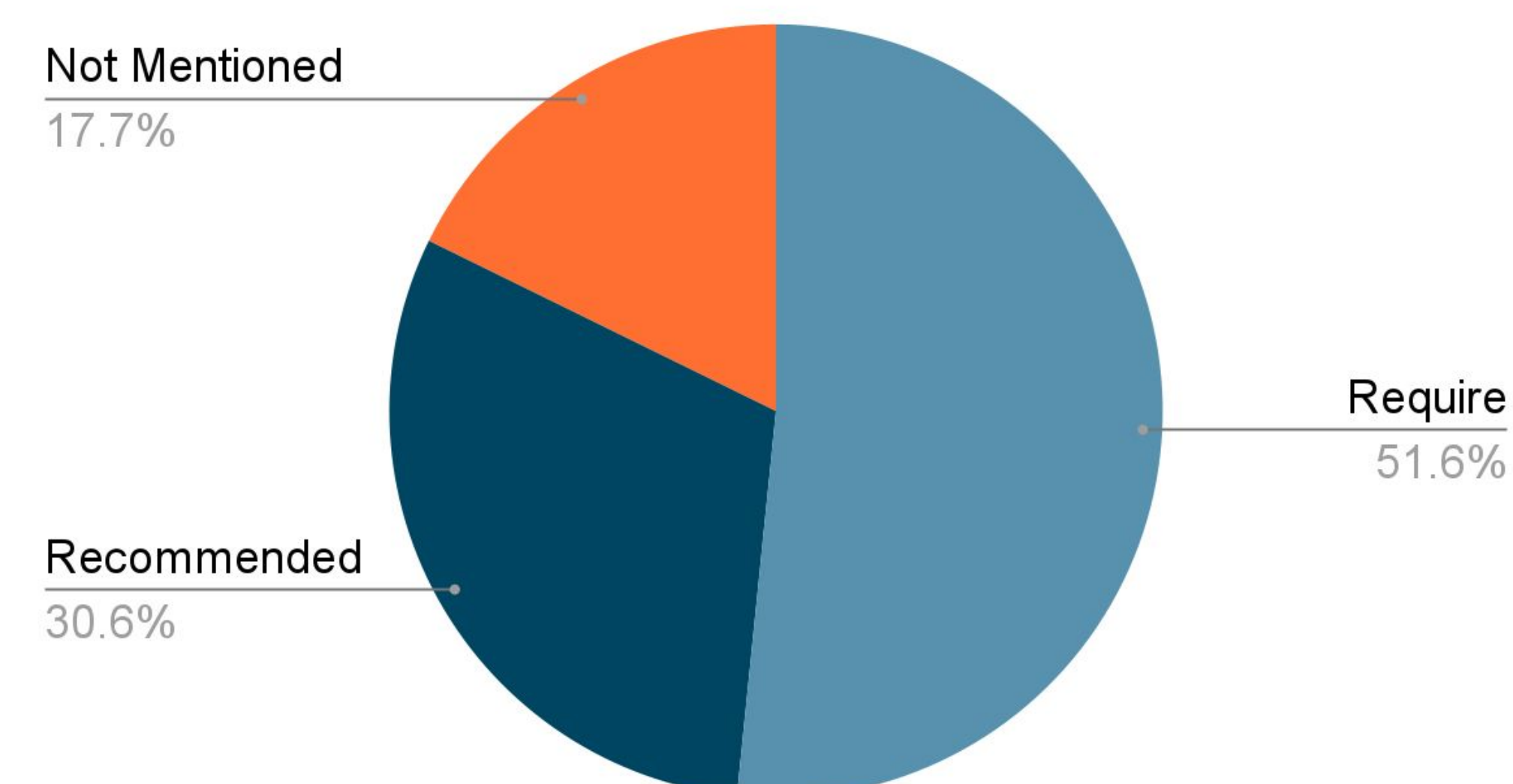


Figure 1.2 Clinical Trial Registration

Discussion

These findings illuminate the variable adoption of reporting guidelines and inconsistent clinical trial registration policies across nephrology journals. We recommend that journal editors in this field require more author adherence to guidelines to improve the quality of research submitted to and published by their journals.

References

1. *Reporting guidelines for main study types*. Equator network. (n.d.). Retrieved January 6, 2023, from <https://www.equator-network.org/>
2. *The CONSORT Statement*. Consort. (n.d.). Retrieved January 6, 2023, from <http://www.consort-statement.org/>

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Jon Goodell, MISLT, AHIP, of OSU-CHS medical library for his extraordinary contributions in facilitating the development of this project.

Additionally we would like to thank everyone on the Vassar Team for their contributions.

