



PSA26
THE HOME OF PHARMACISTS

ICC SYDNEY
31 July – 2 August, 2026

PSA26 Abstract – User guide

Why should you submit an abstract to the PSA Annual Conference?

Presenting at PSA's Annual Conference is a great opportunity to highlight innovative projects, research, and real world practice improvements. It helps build your professional profile and connect you with colleagues across the country.

Have you identified a challenge in your practice and developed a practical solution? Did your project show a measurable impact for patients or your team? Your idea could inspire broader initiatives, inform future policy, or drive change in pharmacy practice.

Students, interns, and pharmacists from all settings are encouraged to submit. If you have a story, insight, or project that others can learn from or collaborate with you, this is your opportunity.

What kind of abstracts can I submit for the PSA conference?

Abstracts are invited across two categories:

- **Research Papers:** Present your original research that pushes the boundaries of pharmacy practice, pharmacy education and pharmaceutical science. We welcome studies that offer new insights, challenge existing paradigms, and propose novel solutions to current challenges in pharmacy practice, pharmacy education and pharmaceutical science.
- **Practice Pearls:** Share your practical experiences, case studies, or innovative approaches that have proven effective in your practice. These insights are invaluable in shaping practical, real-world applications of pharmacy knowledge.

Each pearl conveys an idea, concept, or fact that will be useful in everyday practice, but may not be widely known, published, or taught.

Do I need ethics approval to submit an abstract?

Most research projects would have ethics approvals in order to proceed. Whether you need ethics approval to submit a "Practice Pearl" as an abstract would depend on whether it is classified as a quality assurance activity, clinical audit activity, an educational tool or human research.

However, it depends on what you are presenting. Some guidance:

- A "Practice Pearl" that consists of a single, de-identified case report, a description of a clinical observation, or a brief educational summary of existing evidence usually does not require formal Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) approval.
- Routine clinical audits or quality assurance activities that are for internal use to improve local practice do not usually require formal, full-committee ethics approval. An example of this is a clinical audit that you have conducted as a general practice pharmacist at your clinic and the outcomes. However, it is a good idea to seek permission from your clinic prior to submitting your abstract.
- If the project involves collecting data from patients (even retrospectively) that is identifiable or non-identifiable, or if the "pearl" is a collection of multiple cases (a case series) used to draw new research-type conclusions, it may be considered human research in which case, prior HREC approval is required before you can submit your abstract.



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Key Considerations:

- **Patient Confidentiality:** Regardless of approval, you must remove all identifying information from the patient(s) described in the practice pearl or research abstract.
- **Informed Consent:** Even if formal ethics approval is not required, if a patient is identifiable in any way, you must obtain informed consent from them (or their next of kin).
- **Institutional Policies:** Even if it is not considered as “research,” many organisations require a “Quality Assurance Exemption” or “Audit Approval” to be filled out before submitting any data to a conference. Check with your organisation if you are unsure.
- We recognise that many practicing community pharmacists may not have direct access to an ethics committee for approval. However, this shouldn't discourage you from submitting an abstract. Just reach out to APSA for guidance

Need help writing your abstract or have questions?

For guidance and support, please contact Dr Vijay Suppiah (APSA) at: vijay.suppiah@adelaide.edu.au

How to Write a High-Quality Research Abstract for the PSA Annual Conference

Before You Start

The PSA conference research abstract consists of the following sections:

- Title,
- Authors/Affiliations,
- Presenting Author,
- Introduction,
- Aims,
- Method,
- Results,
- Conclusion,
- Keywords,
- Contact details,
- Presentation preference, and
- Disclosure.

The word count is limited to a maximum of 300 words.

1. Abstract Title

Key is to keep it clear, specific and easy to understand. Avoid jargon and overly broad statements.

2. Authors and Affiliations

List all authors and their institutions or location of practice. Order usually reflects contribution. The first author would be the one who has carried out the study and the last author is usually the supervisor for the project/study or one who has conceived the project. The presenting author is usually first but not always.



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3. Presenting Author

Specify who will be present at the conference.

4. Introduction (ideal length: 2-3 sentences)

Use this section to set the scene. Keep the introduction broad enough for a general pharmacist audience. In the introduction, you should aim to answer the following questions:

- What is the problem?
- Why is it important for the research area/pharmacy practice?
- What is the gap in knowledge or what isn't known about the specific area?

5. Aims (ideal length: 1-2 sentences)

A brief statement describing exactly what your study set out to answer. Use measurable language: "To identify," "To evaluate," "To explore," "To quantify."

6. Method (ideal length: 3-5 sentences)

In this section, outline how you conducted your study – briefly describing the study design, setting, participants, data collection method and analysis.

7. Results (ideal length: 4-6 sentences)

Present raw data from your data collection: key findings, numbers, and trends without interpretation.

8. Conclusion (ideal length: 2-3 sentences)

Summarise the meaning of the findings for the research area/pharmacy practice. Here is where you will interpret your results and link it back to the problem identified in your introduction. Are your findings in sync with what is already known? Or, are your findings suggesting something different? If it's the latter, why do you think that is the case?

9. Keywords

Provide 3–5 searchable terms relevant to your study.

10. Contact Details

Include organisation or place of practice, email, phone, and address.

11. Presentation Preference & Disclosure

Indicate oral presentation or poster preference and any conflicts of interest.

Top Tips

Use simple language, ensure every sentence adds value, align with pharmacy practice relevance, start early, revise multiple times, get others to proof-read, and seek help from APSA representatives (if you get stuck).



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How to Write a High-Quality Practice Pearl Abstract for the PSA Annual Conference

Before You Start

The PSA conference practice pearl abstract consists of the following sections:

- Title,
- Authors/Affiliations,
- Presenting Author,
- Practice Challenge,
- Practice Solution and Implications,
- Keywords,
- Contact details,
- Presentation preference, and
- Disclosure.

The word count is limited to a maximum of 300 words.

1. Abstract Title

Key is to keep it clear, specific and easy to understand. Avoid jargon and overly broad statements.

2. Authors and Affiliations

List all authors and their institutions or location of practice. Order usually reflects contribution. The first author would be the one who has carried out the study and the last author is usually the supervisor for the project or study or one who has conceived the project. The presenting author is usually first but not always.

3. Presenting Author

Specify who will be present at the conference.

4. Practice Challenge

Use this section to set the scene. Keep the introduction broad enough for a general pharmacist audience. In this section you should aim to answer the following questions:

- What is the problem or practice gap?
- Why is it important for pharmacy practice?
- What is the challenge that you aim to solve with your solution/approach?



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5. Practice Solution and Implications

Use this section to outline the solution that was implemented to address the identified practice gap, the outcomes and implications. In this section, you should aim to answer the following questions:

- What was the solution/intervention/tool? Describe the design.
- Did you collect data? What method was used?
- What were the outcomes or results?
- Summarise the meaning of the outcomes and potential implications for pharmacy practice.

6. Keywords

Provide 3–5 searchable terms relevant to your study.

7. Contact Details

Include organisation or place of practice, email, phone, and address.

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Top Tips

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