**Title title title title title title title title title title title title title title title title title title title title title**

**Author’s full name and surname**

Presented in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Medicine (MMed)

Department of Psychiatry

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

Stellenbosch University

**Primary supervisor**

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**Co-supervisors**

Full name and surname of all co-supervisors

**Date**

**Declaration**

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This dissertation includes \*insert number+ original papers published in peer-reviewed journals or books and [insert number] unpublished publications. The development and writing of the papers (published and unpublished) were the principal responsibility of myself and, for each of the cases where this is not the case, a declaration is included in the dissertation indicating the nature and extent of the contributions of co-authors.

Signed:

Date:

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# Extended literature review

# Publication-ready manuscript

The following manuscript has been prepared for submission to xxxx. The journal’s aims and scope, as well as author guidelines are given in Appendix A.

**Title title title title title**

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## Abstract

**Background:**

**Aim:**

**Methods:**

**Results:**

**Conclusions:**

## Introduction

<<Insert ±5 paragraphs that provide background and rationale for your study. The last paragraph provides the rationale and aim for the study>>

## Methods

### **Study design**

<< State the type of design i.e. retrospective or prospective, experimental or observational etc. Explain the plan-of-action or how the study was set out. Provide dates i.e. when was the study conducted?>>

### **Study setting**

<<Describe key features of your setting. Reader should be able to understand the context of the setting and how it might be different from other local or international settings>>

### **Study sample**

<<Describe the eligibility criteria (inclusion and exclusion criteria). Provide the sample number as well as power analysis for this, if appropriate. Describe how patients were recruited and invited to participate>>

### **Data collection**

<<Describe the process of data collection>>

### **Measures**

<<Provide further details about the questionnaires, surveys, or tools used to collect data. Provide a reference if these are established tools. Indicate whether they have been validated in the local setting. Indicate how scores are calculated and what different scores mean>>

### **Data analysis**

<<Structure this section as follows:

1. Report your descriptive stats (measures of central tendency, such as mean vs. median with standard deviation/error, range etc.)
* Most journal articles have some kind of descriptive statistics
* This usually correlates to Table 1 in the results. For example: “Table 1: Demographic and clinical characteristics of study participants (N=353)”
* You must first understand what types of data you have and how different types of data (numerical vs. categorical) can processed for descriptive purposes
* Example: “Continuous variables were summarized as mean and standard deviation or median and 25th- 75th percentiles, while nominal variables were summarized as counts and percentages.
1. Report all statistical tests that were used for hypothesis testing
* This is important to avoid “orphan” p-values in your results section i.e. the reader must be able to assign a statistical test to every p-value presented in the results section (Orphan and Hall, 1989).
1. Report how you dealt with non-normal data, heterogeneity etc in the data
* In instances where data did not meet certain assumptions, how was the data handled?
* Or, if data needed to be transformed in some way, please indicate this.
1. Report what p value indicates a statistically significant result
* Most often, significance is set at p<.05
1. Report what software (and version) was used for the analyses>>

### **Ethical considerations**

*Example 1: For prospective studies*

Ethical approval was obtained from the Health Research Ethics Committee of Stellenbosch University (ref #: S16/09/175). The study was also approved Management of Stikland Hospital. Participation was voluntary and all participants provided written informed consent. All data were anonymised to ensure privacy and confidentiality of participants’ personal information, with each participant assigned a unique identifier.

*Example 2: For retrospective chart reviews*

Ethical approval was obtained from the Health Research Ethics Committee of Stellenbosch University (ref #: S16/09/175) and we were granted a waiver of informed consent. All data were anonymised to ensure privacy and confidentiality of participants’ personal information, with each participant assigned a unique identifier.

## Results

<<Text here to highlight demographic and clinical characteristics of your sample, in relation to Table 1. Do not repeat information. Merely highlight major trends>>

**Table 1:** Demographic and clinical characteristics of participants (N=xxx)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variables** | **n** | **%** |
| Mean age, years (SD) |  |  |
| Gender, n (%) |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

<<Insert text relating to your aim/study question. Add tables/figures, if necessary i.e. only if they contribute to improved understanding of your findings>>

## Discussion

**Para 1:** Recapitulate the aim of your study, and summarize major findings. These findings will each be discussed in more detail in subsequent paragraphs.

**Subsequent paragraphs:** Discuss your major findings in order of importance. Follow rules of good paragraph structure i.e. one major finding per paragraph as a general rule of thumb. Each para should be no more than 200 words, and should aim for no more than 6-8 paragraphs (including first and final paras).

**Final paragraph:** Highlight limitations of your study, and provide recommendations for future work.

## Conclusion

<<insert a single paragraph of text here>>

## Acknowledgements

We acknowledge xxx (Department of xxx, xxx University) for writing assistance and technical editing. We also thank xxx

## Funding

We acknowledge research funding from the following sources:

## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

## References

<<provide a list of all references cited within the body of the manuscript. If using Harvard or APA, these references should appear in alphabetical order. If using Vancouver, then the references should appear in the order in which they are numbered in the text. Most journals cap the number of references at about 30. Systematic reviews or literature reviews will allow for more references. >>

## Appendix A – Journal guidelines

## Appendix B – Ethics approval

## Appendix C – Data collection tools