

2026 ARM: Call for Abstracts FAQs

Below are answers to frequently asked questions about the 2026 ARM Call for Abstracts submission process. If you need additional assistance, please contact: arm_mail@academyhealth.org.

- 1. Do you have to be an AcademyHealth member to submit or present an abstract?**
We do not require membership for abstract submitters. However, only AcademyHealth members will be eligible to give podium presentations. AcademyHealth membership is not required to present a poster.
- 2. What is the submission deadline?**
The deadline for general submissions is **Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET.**
- 3. My abstract could possibly be submitted to more than one theme. May I submit a single abstract to more than one theme?**
No. Individual abstracts may be submitted to only one theme. Please submit your abstract to the theme that you consider most appropriate. AcademyHealth respects the choice made by the submitter and will not move an abstract to a different theme unless specifically requested to do so by the submitter before the submission deadline.
- 4. Do I have a better chance of having my abstract accepted to one theme over another theme?**
No. The acceptance rate is the same for all themes. The number of abstracts selected is proportionate to the number of submissions to that theme.
- 5. Did the names of some themes change for the 2026 ARM?**
Yes, the previous year's ARM Call for Abstracts themes were consolidated and optimized for the 2026 ARM based on input from the ARM Planning Committee. Those submitting abstracts, panels, posters, and student posters should select the theme that best fits their topic area.
- 6. Can I select more than one subtopic within my theme?**
No. Please select the subtopic that most closely relates to your submission. Subtopics will be used to help group individual abstracts in topically cohesive sessions and to assist with session placement in the overall program. If your submission truly does not fit in any of the subtopics provided, please use "other".
- 7. What are the requirements for submitting a panel?**
AcademyHealth is seeking panels that bring together a variety of perspectives, including researchers, policymakers, health system leaders, community-based organizations, patients, and other stakeholders. We encourage panels that highlight practical, real-world impact as well as traditional research. Panels may include up to five people, including the chair. The 1,000-word overview should include a description of the panel topic and the individual topics each panelist will cover. Preference will be given to panels that include multiple perspectives. Creative formats such as debates, interactive discussions, and audience engagement are encouraged.
- 8. How do I submit a panel?**
Panels should be submitted by a lead organizer and must include the names and affiliations of all panelists, along with the perspective each brings to the discussion. Panels may include up to five people, including the chair. The 1,000-word overview should include a description of the panel topic and the individual topics each panelist will cover. Preference will be given to panels that include multiple perspectives. The panel review is not blinded like the individual abstract review. Individual abstracts are not submitted as part of a panel.
- 9. Can I submit research that has been published or is under review for publication?**
Yes. AcademyHealth does not have any restrictions regarding publication.

10. Can I submit work that has already been presented?

Yes. AcademyHealth is committed to the dissemination of health services research. As long as the work has not been presented at an AcademyHealth meeting, it may be submitted.

11. Once I have submitted an abstract, may I make edits?

Yes. You may edit your abstract until **5 p.m. ET, Tuesday, January 6th**. You can log back into the abstract system using your submission username and password to edit your abstract (this is different from your AcademyHealth username and password). After this deadline (and if accepted), only minor edits/corrections will be permitted since the abstract will have undergone a peer review and been accepted based on this version.

12. How do I know my abstract has been received?

You will receive an automated email when you have submitted your abstract. This will include instructions for editing your abstract until the abstract deadline.

13. What is the total word limit of my abstract submission?

The total word limit for an individual abstract is 500 beginning with the Research Objective section. The section titles (e.g. Principal Findings, Implications for Policy or Practice, etc.) and title of the abstract are not included in the word count.

14. What are the required sections of the abstract?

Research Objective:
Study Design:
Population Studied:
Principal Findings:
Conclusions:
Implications for Policy or Practice:

15. Do tables count toward the total word limit?

Yes, tables do count toward the word limit. Most people upload tables into the “findings” section of the paper. (Figures are not allowed.)

16. Can I withdraw a submission?

Yes, you can withdraw your abstract from consideration by using the “withdraw abstract” option.

17. If my abstract is selected for presentation, but I am unavailable to present on a panel or in the poster program, may I send a substitute to the meeting?

Yes. Once your abstract has been accepted, you may send a co-author to present your paper or poster if you are unable to attend the meeting. If none of the co-authors are available, we will remove your paper from the program and bring up an alternate. For policy roundtables and panels on critical & emerging issues, it is strongly encouraged to confirm submitted speakers intent to present, since the review will be un-blinded and decisions may be made based on who will be speaking on the panel. Please notify us of speaker changes by sending an e-mail to arm_mail@academyhealth.org.

18. How long are the conference breakout sessions?

All breakout sessions are 75 minutes long. This is the same for panels as well as individual abstracts, which will be grouped topically after acceptance, to create a complete session.

19. If I am selected for the poster program, but am unable to attend the meeting, will my abstract be included on AcademyHealth's website?

No. You or a co-author must present your poster at the meeting in order to have your abstract included.

20. **Can I submit the same research to the main ARM call for abstracts and as a Student Poster?**
No. We ask that you select one submission type as you cannot be considered for both. If you feel that your research is strong enough to be considered for podium presentation, submit to the main CFA.
21. **When will I be notified about the status of my abstract?**
Notifications will be sent via email by mid-March.
22. **Is there a process for submitting a late-breaking abstract?**
Yes, AcademyHealth will offer a late-breaking submission deadline for presentations that highlight significant and timely findings in areas of Health Services Research. Late breaking submissions must follow the same submission guidelines as regular submissions, and only those that are deemed to be of high priority will be accepted. The late breaking submission deadline is **March 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET.**
23. **Is there a maximum number of abstracts that one person can submit?**
No. As long as the abstracts are different, there is not a limit on the number of submissions from one person.
24. **Are accepted podium and poster presenters required to pay the registration fee?**
Yes, all presenters (podium and poster) must register for the conference and pay the registration fee. Podium presenters are eligible for the speaker rate.
25. **Are CMEs and CNEs offered at ARM?**
No. Due to low uptake in the past, this program has been discontinued.
26. **How can I submit an abstract to the ARM Interest Group Session Call for Abstracts?**
For the 2026 IG sessions, IG Advisory Committees are independently running their individual Call for Abstracts. IGs are currently determining if they are hosting a CFAs. Please check back in January 2026 for more information. If an IG is hosting a Call for Abstracts, you will need to communicate directly with the IG Advisory Committee contact.
27. **Can I submit the same research to an Interest Group (IG) and to ARM?**
Yes. AcademyHealth believes the audience for work submitted to an IG is different from the audience at the main meeting. Since IGs will be hosting their independent calls for abstracts, you may submit your abstract to both calls.
Please Note: Presenters are not permitted to give a poster and podium presentation on the same abstract. If you are invited and accept an IG Meeting podium invitation, you will forfeit your ARM poster presentation on the same abstract.
28. **Additional Questions regarding IG Meetings?**
Send all IG-related questions to: interest.group@academyhealth.org.
29. **May I choose whether I want to present in person or virtually?**
No, all Call for Abstracts presenters and speakers should be prepared to present in person.