

BMJ Leader

Leadership in the Mirror: Aims and Scope

Leadership in the Mirror submissions are pieces that involve people's personal reflections relating to leadership and management in healthcare. We anticipate that published reflective essays will generate shared understandings – and debate -- about the practice of leadership in healthcare among the community of researchers and practitioners that read this journal.

Personal reflection is the mechanism by which people interpret research knowledge, including research articles published in this journal, and put that knowledge into practice. Reflection about how and when research knowledge is more or less useful in practice has the potential to inform or motivate future research and policy. People experience the impacts of different policies—from pay for performance initiatives to immigration policies to policies for integrating health and social care—in their leadership roles. Personal reflections on policies and their impact on the ground have the potential to illuminate and expand policy debates in useful ways. The same holds for people's experiences of and reflections on diverse current events—e.g. a particularly cold winter, an outbreak of the Ebola virus.

While every health professional has likely engaged in some personal reflection that others could fruitfully learn from, we aim, in this journal, to prioritize publishing narrative essays that are novel and useful to the journals' readership. Readability -- strong and engaging writing -- is also essential. We intend to approach prominent leaders and invite them to contribute to this series, and we also welcome readers' submissions. All published contributions need to include messages, lessons or insights which go above and beyond general reflections on what you have learned about management and leadership in your career.

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Novelty and usefulness can take many forms, for example reflections on particularly unusual career experiences or trajectories or those that shed new insight into public policy debates or other current events. Our intention is that, over time, the journal will develop a body of reflections that both shed light into the practice of leadership and management in healthcare and how it relates to research, public policy, and current events.