



ICCH 2026

Abstracts Submission Guidelines

Deadline: All abstracts must be submitted by no later than **midnight (GMT) on Sunday 1st February 2026**

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ICCH 2026 welcomes abstracts focusing on communication in healthcare. Multiple presentation formats are available to showcase and share your work.

All abstracts must be submitted online using the electronic abstract portal. This can be accessed via the ICCH 2026 Abstract Portal. Please carefully proofread your abstract before submitting.

Abstracts sent by post or email will not be accepted.

Please read these guidelines carefully before writing and submitting your abstract to ensure compliance with the required type and format.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

All submissions must adhere to the following:

- All submissions must be entered electronically via the submission site
- Identifiable details of authors should only be present within the author section of the electronic submission form and should not be included in the title or body of the abstract to enable blind review
- The abstract should be written in English
- Single line spacing should be used throughout the document
- Do not use all uppercase letters in the text or title, or when entering author names

- Do not include a list of references in your abstract
- To enable as many people as possible to participate at the conference, the limit of the number of oral presentations per presenter is a maximum of 2.

REVIEW PROCESS

- Abstracts submitted to the ICCH conference are blind reviewed by experts.
- **The submitting author will be notified of the Committee's decision the week commencing Monday 13th April 2026** by email to the same email address provided in their ICCH 2026 profile.
- It is the author's responsibility to ensure email addresses are current, updated, and that emails from the ICCH 2026 events team can reach them. Full presentation guidelines will be included in the acceptance email.
- For all accepted abstracts, **the lead author will be required to register for the conference by 5.00pm (GMT) on Sunday 2nd August 2026**. If the registration is not confirmed by that date, the abstract will be excluded from the conference programme.

ABSTRACT TYPES

During submission, you will be required to indicate the **category you want to be considered for**:

ICCH Pre-Conference Masterclass	Oral/Poster Presentation	Work in Progress (WIP)	Creative Healthcare Communication	Symposia	Workshops	Roundtable Discussions
An interactive session, intended to give practical tips, skills or strategies on a topical issue and suggestions for implementation in participants' own context	Original research, teaching/ assessment or policy/process study related to communication in healthcare, completed with results to report	Discussions about projects that are still in progress that enables students, trainees, and junior faculty to get advice and insights on their approaches and work	The Creative Healthcare Communication session at ICCH use inventive, playful, and artistic methods of health care communication	Symposia are sessions that feature 3-5 individual presentations that share a common theme or topic and allow in-depth examination and discussion of that topic.	Interactive workshops, where the participants engage in a structured and active learning experience in the field of communication teaching, assessment, research or policy making	Gatherings of individuals with similar interests and needs for sharing ideas and/or resources or to initiate or continue collaborative work (new or established groups welcome)

ICCH 2026 TOPICS

The following represents some of the key topical categories of work we anticipate will be presented at ICCH 2026. Please consider what topics best align with your abstract. If your abstract aligns with multiple topics, please select the one which fits best. Selecting the most suitable topic will ensure your submission is assigned to appropriate reviewers and placed in the most appropriate session for a successful presentation.

Teaching/assessment of learners in health professions	Assessing clinical communication skills Assessing communication education methods Teaching communication skills
Clinician/Health care professional-patient interactions	Sharing medical information Gathering information / clinical reasoning Language clarity and comprehension Communication about risk and uncertainty Patients expressing emotions / cues and concerns Responding to patient emotions / empathy Patient and person-centred communication Triadic communication Non-verbal communication Patient and caregiver evaluation of care Communication with potentially vulnerable groups (e.g. age, culture, gender, race etc) Breaking bad news on different levels (i.e. not life-threatening but diminished functional recovery, for example)
Shared decision making & involvement of patients and caregivers	Concept and measurement Occurrence, determinants, outcomes Decision support / tools Training Caregiver involvement & perspective Patient education/self-management Patient empowerment
Intervention research	Intervention development Intervention testing Implementation / de-implementation research
Health policy	Evidence-based policy development Organizational change and change management Development and validation of measurement instruments Innovative research methodologies Review methodology (realistic, scoping, etc.) in communication research
Health literacy	Concept and measurement Occurrence, determinants, outcomes Interventions, tools and training
Health Equity & Health Disparities	Health equity, health disparities (incl. inclusion health) Language discordant care & Interpreters Cross-cultural communication Communication with underserved populations Advocacy group / community engagement
Mediated health communication (eHealth) / communication technology	Health communication technology assessment Electronic medical records & online portals Telemedicine (incl. e-consultations) Social media & Internet Artificial intelligence Digital security and cybersecurity in healthcare communication
Specific topics in healthcare communication	Health promotion/prevention Chronic illness and multi-morbidity Palliative/end of life care Ethics Professionalism and attitude Communication during pandemics Population-level communication Misinformation/Disinformation Quality improvement and patient safety Strategies for crisis and disaster communication (beyond pandemics) Sustainability/planetary health and risk communication Communication for neurodivergent patients (assistive technologies)
Inter-professional communication	Inter-/intra-disciplinary communication Communication Models Interprofessional communication in global and cross-border collaborations

ICCH Pre-Conference Masterclass

These are 3 hour, 4½ hour or 6-hour interactive in-person pre-conference educational sessions focusing on knowledge enhancement and skills development. They will be scheduled either on Monday 14th September 2026 or the morning of Tuesday 15th September 2026 prior to the official start of ICCH 2026. These masterclasses will allow more time than the usual 90 minutes allotted for workshops to address a more complex topic or set of skills. Examples may include an intensive course focusing on a specific research methodology or more in-depth workshop on assessing workplace-based communication skills. There will be a separate registration fee for each Pre-conference Masterclasses. Pre-conference Masterclasses without a minimum number of registered participants may be cancelled with registration refunded.

Pre-Conference Masterclasses may only be presented in person and should be an interactive session, intended to give practical tips, skills or strategies on a topical issue and suggestions for implementation in participants' own context.

Please note that due to limited number of available spaces for each submission category, the Planning and Scientific Committee may offer alternative spaces to good quality abstracts i.e. acceptance in another category other than the initial submission category.

The review criteria includes:

- **Relevance and significance:** The proposal addresses a timely and important issue in healthcare communication, particularly pertaining to research, teaching and/or policy and practice.
- **Clarity of learning objectives:** The proposal contains SMART objectives and applicable to the target audience.
- **Quality of proposed activities:** The activities are evidence-based, connect to the learning objectives, engage the participants and involve application of established knowledge/framework.
- **Structure and feasibility:** The proposed structure fits within the allotted time and includes activities that will produce the desired outcomes/impact.

Fields for completion within the electronic form:

The electronic form will contain 5 areas:

Title: A title of 100 characters (including spaces) or less

Author(s) details: For all authors-title, first and last names, email address, department and institution. Indication of who will be the presenting author.

Presentation Type: ICCH Pre-Conference Masterclass

Topic: You will be asked to select 1 from a list of submission topics, that best describe your work.

Body: The body of the structured abstract should be limited to 500 words (submissions exceeding this word limit will not be processed) and should follow the categories, directions, and word limits detailed in the instructions based on category of abstract. Please ensure you have read and follow these instructions as they vary based on the category type of each abstract.

Rationale: Why the topic is important and its relevance to communication in healthcare

Targeted audience: Describe who should participate. Please try to be as specific as possible when identifying the target audience for your workshop to help participants make an informed decision about whether to attend.

Behaviourally-specific learning objectives: What participants will be able to do as a result of this session. Of note, objectives should not just be the workshop agenda but rather what participants will take away from the workshop.

Structure of masterclass: Description of the session format and the activities that will be used to actively involve the participants. Provide estimated timeline and time allotted for each activity within the proposed X hour session. Didactic lecture portions, if included, should be brief. Active involvement of participants does have to go beyond just activities such as a large group discussion or a slot for questions and answers only. Facilitators should engage workshop participants from the beginning and throughout the workshop using interactive activities for small group discussion, reflection, practice and application activities such as pair-share activities and role play.

Intended outcomes: Describe intended outcomes from the Masterclass and how you will evaluate achievement of these outcomes. i.e. How will you enable participants to reflect on what they have gained, such as using verbal or written reflection, completion of worksheets, or plans to apply new skills?

Minimum number of participants needed

Preferred maximum number of participants

Requested length of session: 3 hours, 4½ hours, 6 hours

Orals & Posters

In the submission form, you can select your work to be considered for (1) either a poster or an oral presentation, or (2) a poster presentation only. Oral and poster presentation abstracts relate to communication in healthcare.

Abstracts in this category require results. Although these results can be preliminary, they must be adequately developed to demonstrate methodological rigour, emerging findings and the relevance of the work. Both Teaching/Assessment' and 'Policy and practice' abstracts should present evaluation data, where available, to indicate the effectiveness or feasibility of the intervention. Work that does not yet have results, or has only very limited preliminary findings, may be better suited to the Work in Progress (WIP) category, which is specifically designed for early-career researchers seeking formative feedback.

If your abstract gets accepted for an oral presentation, you will be asked to prepare a 9-minute presentation, followed by 4 minutes of discussion.

If your abstract is accepted for a poster presentation, you will be asked to prepare a poster. Both online and in-person poster presenters will be invited to do a 1-minute poster-pitch during the conference for the poster awards.

The review criteria includes:

- Relevance and importance for healthcare communication
- Innovative in healthcare communication teaching or policy/practice
- Clarity of the objectives
- Appropriateness, quality and clear description of methods
- Clear description of findings
- Discussion of the meaning of the findings for communication in healthcare.
- Overall clarity and quality of the abstract.

Fields for completion within the electronic form:

The electronic form will contain 5 areas:

Title: A title of 100 characters (including spaces) or less

Author(s) details: For all authors-title, first and last names, email address, department and

institution. Indication of who will be the presenting author.

Presentation Type: Oral or Poster Presentation or Poster Presentation Only

Topic: You will be asked to select 1 from a list of submission topics, that best describe your work.

Body: The body of the structured abstract should be limited to 300 words (submissions exceeding this word limit will not be processed) and should follow the categories, directions, and word limits detailed in the instructions based on category of abstract. Please ensure you have read and follow these instructions as they vary based on the category type of each abstract.

Background: Describe the relevance, context, and objective of the work. For research projects, please include main research questions, aims or hypotheses. For teaching projects, please include institutional context and educational objectives. For policy projects, please include a clear problem statement and objective of the policy/practice innovation.

Methods: Design, approach, and analysis/assessment methods. For research projects, please include descriptions of participants, method of data collection and analysis. For teaching projects, please include descriptions of developmental approach, instructional, evaluation, or assessment methods. For policy projects, please include description of policy or practice innovation, implementation strategy, guideline development or panel study.

Findings: Include a summary of the main findings and results. Note that it is not acceptable to refer to 'data/evaluation will be discussed'.

Discussion: Discussion of the (possible) innovative contribution to, or implications for, communication in healthcare.

Work In Progress (WIP)

If your project is in early stages or still ongoing and you have limited or no results, you can still submit this work for a possible oral or poster presentation. The WIP category is designed to provide students, trainees and junior faculty with an opportunity to present developing projects, pose questions and receive constructive feedback from the audience. WIP presenters are asked to prepare a 7 minute presentation which is followed by 8 minutes of structured discussion and focused feedback. If you opt to qualify for a WIP presentation in the submission form, you will be asked to provide specific questions you would like addressed during this discussion.

In the submission form, you can select your work to be considered for (1) either a poster or an oral presentation or WIP presentation, or (2) a poster presentation only. Please note that completed projects, or those presenting preliminary results intended primarily for dissemination rather than feedback, should be submitted to the standard oral/poster abstract category.

At the start of the presentation, each presenter will identify and explicitly state 1-3 discussion points he/she would like to focus on during the brief discussion at the end of the presentation. The presenters will also obtain confidential feedback from the session chair at the end of the session on his/her presentation skills.

This submission category will be limited to presenting authors who are students (undergraduate student, health professions students or graduate students), trainees (postdoctoral fellows, residents, etc) and early career faculty (within 5 years of their terminal degree).

All submissions must include description of presenter's early career status (year of training and field as student, trainee etc. or field and years since completion of terminal degree). Also, without mentioning specific names or funding sources (in order to allow for blinded abstract review),

please include description of if you are working with a mentor on this project and also whether you have either internal or external funding supporting this project.

Please note that due to limited number of available spaces for each submission category, the Planning and Scientific Committee may offer alternative spaces to good quality abstracts i.e. acceptance in another category other than the initial submission category.

The review criteria includes:

- Relevance and importance for healthcare communication research
- Innovative in healthcare communication research, teaching or policy/practice?
- Clarity of the objectives
- Appropriateness, quality and clear description of methods
- Clear description of preliminary findings
- Discussion of the potential meaning/implications.
- Overall clarity and quality of the abstract.

Fields for completion within the electronic form:

The electronic form will contain 5 areas:

Title: A title of 100 characters (including spaces) or less

Author(s) details: For all authors-title, first and last names, email address, department and institution. Indication of who will be the presenting author.

Presentation Type: Work In Progress (WIP)

Topic: You will be asked to select 1 from a list of submission topics, that best describe your work.

Body: The body of the structured abstract should be limited to 450 words (submissions exceeding this word limit will not be processed) and should follow the categories, directions, and word limits detailed in the instructions based on category of abstract. Please ensure you have read and follow these instructions as they vary based on the category type of each abstract.

Background: Describe the relevance, context, and objective of the work. For research projects, please include main research questions, aims or hypotheses. For teaching projects, please include institutional context and educational objectives. For policy projects, please include a clear problem statement and objective of the policy/practice innovation.

Methods: Design, approach, and analysis/assessment methods. For research projects, please include descriptions of participants, method of data collection and analysis. For teaching projects, please include descriptions of developmental approach, instructional, evaluation, or assessment methods. For policy projects, please include description of policy or practice innovation, implementation strategy, guideline development or panel study.

Findings: Include a summary of the main findings and results. Note that it is not acceptable to refer to 'data/evaluation will be discussed'.

Discussion: Discussion of the (possible) innovative contribution to, or implications for, communication in healthcare.

Creative Healthcare Communication

The Creative Healthcare Communication sessions at ICCH use inventive, playful, and artistic methods of healthcare communication. The Creative Healthcare Communication sessions are a particularly suitable space for exploring health communication because they provide an

opportunity to see things differently – offering a new and potentially provocative approach to the intersections between healthcare and communication.

There is no prescribed format, and presenters may use their presentation time however they wish as long as the emphasis focuses on creativity, performance, and audience engagement. We particularly encourage submissions related to patient-provider communication and clinical or therapeutic relationships. The presentation duration will be either 15 or 30 minutes. For either duration, the abstract should include justification and a clear rationale for how the time will be used.

Creative Healthcare communication submissions can be of two major types: visual or performance arts. Visual arts contributions will be displayed as posters during poster sessions. When submitting, please select the type of submission you feel best represents your work:

Visual Arts

- Photography, paintings, small 3-dimensional objects or other similar mediums
- Note that for accepted visual arts items, security of the item on-site, shipping expenses, as well as display set-up materials will be the responsibility of the presenter

Performance Arts

- Personal reflections, stories of one's own or others' experiences of health or illness narratives, short theatrical performances, innovative interactive exercises, poetry, puppetry, music, dance or dramatic representations of dialogues or experiences

The review criteria includes:

- Topic: healthcare communication
- Creativity
- Participant engagement
- Novelty
- Impact
- Clearness of the timeline specifying activities within the session

Fields for completion within the electronic form:

The electronic form will contain 5 areas:

Title: A title of 100 characters (including spaces) or less

Author(s) details: For all authors-title, first and last names, email address, department and organisation.

Presentation Type: Creative Healthcare Communication – Visual Arts or Creative Healthcare Communication – Performing Arts

Topic: You will be asked to select 1 from a list of submission topics, that best describe your work.

Body: The body of the structured abstract should be limited to 300 words (submissions exceeding this word limit will not be processed) and should follow the categories, directions, and word limits detailed in the instructions based on category of abstract. Please ensure you have read and follow these instructions as they vary based on the category type of each abstract.

Background: An introduction with description of the aim of the session

Methods: A description of the session with enough detail to assess:

Format: including (1) whether this is a visual arts or performance art type of submission, (2) the duration, (3) audience engagement and (4) a detailed timeline

Creative elements

Symposia

Symposia are designed to capture a coherent set of three to five individual presentations that centre on one theme in which speakers address in depth an issue or a question of relevance. An important asset of a symposium is that it places individual experiences or research results in a broader context and allows time for interaction between the speakers and discussion amongst the group.

A Symposium starts with a chairperson who briefly introduces the focus and it is followed by at least three but no more than five individual presentations. Each Symposium ends with a concluding section that opens the discussion among the speakers and the audience.

The person who initiates the symposium proposal should consider inviting colleagues from different countries to provide an international perspective.

When submitting, the symposium abstract should be submitted as one single abstract for the whole symposium. The available time is 90 minutes.

The review criteria includes:

- Relevance and importance in advancing healthcare communication
- Innovation in healthcare communication research, teaching/assessment or policy/practice
- The proposed presentations fit together in a logical manner to address the topic (for example, offering contrasting perspectives or range of experiences/findings)
- Description of how interactivity will be fostered among speakers and with the audience
- Symposia speakers have appropriate experience/expertise to address the topic
- Impact/significance of the suggested focus as a whole.

Fields for completion within the electronic form:

The electronic form will contain 5 areas:

Title: A title of 100 characters (including spaces) or less

Author(s) details: Title, first and last names, email address, department and organisation of session chair.

Presentation Type: Symposium

Topic: You will be asked to select 1 from a list of submission topics, that best describe your work.

Body: The body of the structured abstract should be limited to 600 words including individual speaker descriptions (anything over this word limit will be automatically rejected) and should follow the categories, directions, and word limits detailed in the instructions based on category of abstract. Please ensure you have read and follow these instructions as they vary based on the category type of each abstract.

Rationale: Why is the topic important, what is its relevance for communication in health care, and what do you want to achieve?

For each speaker: A brief abstract of each speaker's contribution, without identifying the chair or speakers by name.

Qualification of speaker: Without identifying chair or speakers by name, supply the expertise/experience of the speakers regarding the symposium topic (for example, "speaker 1 has

conducted several research projects on this topic or “speaker 2 has taught and developed curriculum on this topic for over 10 years”)

A timetable: showing how the 90 minutes will be allocated for each component, e.g., chair’s introduction, presentation 1, presentation 2, presentation 3, etc, discussion among speakers, discussion with the audience and concluding thoughts.

Workshops

Workshops are interactive educational sessions that actively engage participants in a topic related to communication in healthcare. To be accepted at this conference, workshops must be truly experiential. Didactic presentation during the workshop should be considerably limited compared to other conference presentations. Workshop participants should be enabled to actively and substantially contribute and have the opportunity to practice ideas or skills during the session. We aim to promote experiential learning through application, practice, feedback, and peer interaction through conference workshops.

Workshops may focus on research methods, teaching strategies, policy and practice issues, or other skill-building. Workshops must enable participants to apply the skills acquired and practised in their institutional contexts. The audience at ICCH is composed of teachers, researchers, clinicians and policy makers in healthcare communication and submitted workshops should be geared to this audience. While workshops that have been given in the facilitators’ teaching practice to learners, such as students or clinicians, can be submitted, the abstract and workshop session needs to explicitly include an exploration of how teachers, researchers and/or policy makers could use workshop content and methods in teaching/research at their institution. The available time is 90 minutes.

The review criteria includes:

- Relevance to research and/or teaching and/or policy and practice in the area of healthcare communication: To what extent would this workshop focus on a topic that would advance teaching and/or research /or policy practices in healthcare communication?
- Clarity of learning objectives: Are the learning objectives clearly stated and actionable? Do the learning objectives follow directly from the purpose and proposed content of the workshop?
- Emphasis on activities to promote active participant engagement: Does the abstract present a plan for engaging workshop participants? Does this plan go beyond saving time for large group discussion/Q and A?
- Feasibility/sequence of planned activities: Are the proposed activities feasible within the allotted timeframe? Will they likely fill the time allotted? Are the teaching methods to be used clearly described? Are the teaching methods appropriate to achieve the learning objectives and appropriate for interactive workshops (limited didactic presentations).
- Plan for reflection on what participants will gain? Do the authors describe how they will encourage participant reflection on what they have gained? Do they describe a clear evaluation plan?

Fields for completion within the electronic form:

The electronic form will contain 5 areas:

Title: A title of 100 characters (including spaces) or less

Presenter details: Title, first and last names, email address, department and organisation.

Presentation Type: Workshop

Topic: You will be asked to select 1 from a list of submission topics, that best describe your work.

Body: The body of the structured abstract should be limited to 400 words (anything over this word

limit will be automatically rejected) and should follow the categories, directions, and word limits detailed in the instructions based on category of abstract. Please ensure you have read and follow these instructions as they vary based on the category type of each abstract.

Rationale: Why is the topic important, what is its relevance for communication in health care.

Behaviourally-specific Learning objectives: What participants will be able to do as a result of this session. Of note, objectives should not just be the workshop agenda but rather what participants will take away from the workshop

Teaching methods: Description of the session format and the activities that will be used to actively involve the participants. Note: See guidelines below.

Evaluation of outcomes for participants: How will you enable participants to reflect on what they have gained, such as using verbal or written reflection, completion of worksheets or plans to apply new skills?

Preferred maximum number of participants

Guidelines for Teaching methods and timeline field: 250 words (anything over this word limit will be automatically rejected)

- Description of the time allocation for each activity within the proposed 90-minute session. Didactic lecture portions, if included, should be brief (<10-15minutes). Active involvement of participants does have to go beyond just activities such as a large group discussion or a slot for questions and answers only. Facilitators should engage workshop participants from the beginning and throughout the workshop using interactive activities for small group discussion, reflection, practice and application activities such as pair-share activities and role play.

Roundtable Discussion

Roundtable Discussions are gatherings of individuals with similar interests and needs for sharing ideas and/or resources or to initiate or continue collaborative work (new or established groups are welcome). Roundtable Discussions provide opportunities for open discussion and creativity in an informal, unstructured setting. Roundtable Discussions should be facilitated by the abstract author/s.

The review criteria includes:

- The importance of the topic: Try to describe why you think your proposed topic is important.
- The interactivity of the session with the likelihood that the group will generate discussion and elicit contributions from different perspectives. Describe how you will generate engagement among the participants using your selected format.
- The likelihood that new projects, collections of ideas, collaborations or gathering of resources will result.

Fields for completion within the electronic form:

The electronic form will contain 5 areas:

Title: A title of 100 characters (including spaces) or less

Author(s)details: For all authors-title, first and last names, email address, department and institution. Indication of who will be the presenting author.

Presentation Type: Roundtable Discussion

Topic: You will be asked to select 1 from a list of submission topics, that best describe your work.

Body: The body of the structured abstract should be limited to 300 words (submissions exceeding this word limit will not be processed) and should follow the categories, directions, and word limits detailed in the instructions based on category of abstract. Please ensure you have read and follow these instructions as they vary based on the category type of each abstract.

Topic and purpose of discussion and argument for importance of topic

Brief outline of session: The outline should include types of questions/issues to be discussed with minimal to no didactic presentation.

Outcomes hoped for from the discussion

Whether an already established group is organizing this

If you are experiencing problems submitting your abstract, please do not hesitate to contact the ICCH 2026 events team by emailing events@fitwise.co.uk or by calling 01506 292042.

Thank you for your interest in presenting at ICCH 2026. The contribution of presenters is critical and we value your input greatly.