



Guidelines for using and moderating British Society of Gerontology (BSG) Care Homes Research SIG Blog

About the BSG and BSG Care Homes Research Special Interest Group



The British Society of Gerontology (BSG), established in 1971, is the professional organisation representing gerontologists in Britain. It provides a multidisciplinary forum for researchers and other individuals interested in the situations of older people, and in how knowledge about ageing and later life can be enhanced and improved.

Link to website: www.britishgerontology.org



The BSG Care Homes Research Special Interest Group (SIG) aims to strengthen research, policy, and practice in all areas of care homes research, including those related to staff, residents, family members and carers, as well as the home environment, and its links with external organisations. We also aim to develop complementary working relationships with the other BSG SIGs, as well as other groups and organisations that support care homes research.

Link to website: www.britishgerontology.org/about-bsg/special-interest-groups/care-homes

Care Homes Research Special Interest Group (SIG) Blog



This blog is a space for the sharing and discussion of care homes research and is open to both members and non-members of the Care Homes Research SIG. Anyone with an interest in care homes research is welcome to post a blog: care home providers and staff, academics, health and social care professionals, residents, families and friends.

The blog can be found at: www.bsgsigcarehomesblog.co.uk.

If you would like to join the Care Homes Research SIG, or author a blog post, please contact us at: BSGcarehomesSIG@britishgerontology.org.

About this blog, aims and objectives

We would like the blog to highlight and discuss issues within care homes that are research relevant. We particularly welcome bloggers with any first-hand experience in care home settings.

Bloggers may be those who conduct research in care homes but may also include 'frontline' care staff, as well as managerial staff, residents, or family members who would like to write about their experiences of research, or about an issue that requires more research attention. Perhaps you have been a research participant or have a desire to be included in future research.

Whatever your interests and perspectives, please think about writing a blog. The following are some suggestions for topics, but we are open to many others!

- Would you like to blog about your experiences of being involved with care homes, either as a researcher or a participant?
- Have you come across an issue in practice that you think would be good to research into?
- Have you developed some new care home research methods that you want to talk about?
- Are you in the middle of a research project and need advice on a research-related issue?
- Do you want to share your experiences of applying research findings into practice?

Disclaimer

Please note that the views expressed on this blog are the views of individuals concerned and, therefore, do not represent the views of the British Society of Gerontology (BSG) or the SIG.

Guidance on blog submissions

We have put together some guidance to help you prepare your blog post:

- **Title:** consider the best way to describe your research topic and hook people in — what would encourage people to click on your blog post? Ideally your title should be a maximum of 25 words.
- **Tell us a bit about yourself:** include your job title/position at the top, and 2–3 sentences about yourself. If you have Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok details you can include them here. However, you may want to be careful about sharing personal information about yourself or others as this is a public forum.
- **Word count:** aim for around 500–800 words to talk about your topic.
- **Style:** aim to be informative, yet informal, and feel free to write in your own voice and using the 1st person (i.e: I, me, my, we, our, etc).
- **Images:** pictures tell a 1000 words! We welcome and appreciate accompanying pictures. The [Centre for Ageing Better](https://ageing-better.org.uk/news/age-positive-image-library-launched) has an age-positive image library, available to download for free at: <https://ageing-better.org.uk/news/age-positive-image-library-launched> (see their website for full terms and conditions). Alternatively, we may use a stock photo for your blog post instead. Please attach any images as separate high-resolution images (the highest quality you can) when you email us your submission, rather than inserting them into your Word document. Do ensure that you have the appropriate permissions to share the images in this way.
- **Formatting:**
 - **Acronyms/abbreviations:** please explain these the first time you use them, even relatively common or obvious ones such as EOLC (end-of-life care) and ACP (advance care planning). Better still, try to avoid using them, or too many of them.
 - **Bullet points:** please indent these.
 - **Full stops:** use single spaces after these.
- **Content:** before we publish a blog, our moderators will proofread it, and possibly suggest edits. Our moderation process aims to ensure that blogs are respectful, and we ask that:
 - bloggers use preferred language, such as: ‘older people’ or ‘older adults’; ‘people with dementia’/‘people living with dementia’/‘people experiencing dementia’ (as opposed to “suffering” from a condition). For further guidance, see:
 - [Age Platform Europe](https://www.age-platform.eu/publications/short-guide-avoid-stereotypical-communication-when-talking-about-ageing-and-older) – <https://www.age-platform.eu/publications/short-guide-avoid-stereotypical-communication-when-talking-about-ageing-and-older> or
 - [Centre for Ageing Better](https://ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-12/Challenging-ageism-guide-talking-ageing-older-age.pdf) – <https://ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-12/Challenging-ageism-guide-talking-ageing-older-age.pdf>.
 - Please don’t:
 - use offensive or inflammatory language or inappropriate/outdated terminology.

- promote any commercial products, services, or publications that are not relevant to the discussion of your research.
- break the law (this includes impersonating or falsely claiming to represent a person or organization, libel, condoning illegal activity, and contempt of court).
- Our moderators will aim to upload submitted blogs within 10 working days, although this may be longer on occasion. **If your blog is time-critical, please include this in your email.**
- **How to submit:**
 - Email all blog submissions and/or queries to Diane Bunn at BSGcarehomesSIG@britishgerontology.org.
 - Include “**blog post submission**” in your subject.
 - Attach your blog post as a Word document (.doc or .docx).
 - Attach photos/images separately in the highest resolution possible (preferably JPG at the maximum quality).

To get an idea of what our blogs are like please look at previous posts [here](https://bsgsigcarehomesblog.co.uk/blog-posts/): (<https://bsgsigcarehomesblog.co.uk/blog-posts/>) or contact us at BSGcarehomesSIG@britishgerontology.org.

You don't have to be a member of the British Society or Gerontology or the Care Homes Research Special Interest Group to submit a blog. So, please feel free to ask your friends and colleagues if they have something they would like to blog about!

Moderation policy

Our moderators are members of the BSG Care Homes Research SIG Committee. Blog comments are pre-moderated to ensure they comply with the blog participation guidelines outlined above. If comments don't comply, they will not be published.

This is a brief outline of how we evaluate comments:

- Does the blog comply with the BSG Care Homes Research SIG blog participation guidelines above?
- Is this comment on topic, does it add value to the discussion?
- Is this person asking for information or details relating to the SIG, or any research or projects discussed — for example, is it a content query? If so, we'll pass the query on to the Committee or relevant author and ensure it is dealt with as quickly as possible. We will update the user on progress.
- If the comment concerns an issue with the blog/website (such as reporting a bug or performance problem), we will ensure that it is dealt with and feedback on the progress of the issue.