# A Quick Guide to APA Referencing for Nursing: Reference Examples

When you quote, paraphrase or summarise other people's information, ideas or opinions, cite your sources in the text of your assignment. In addition, provide a reference list containing full information for each cited source.

For more information, see *A Quick Guide to APA Referencing: Part 1: General Guidelines*
or the fuller guide, *APA Referencing: A Guide for Ara Institute of Canterbury 2025*
Watch this short video *Formatting an APA Style Reference List*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHS5oxp5K2U

| Full reference (in reference list) Who? When? What? Where? | In-text citation Who? When? | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| **Book with one author** Jackson, L. M. (2019). *The psychology of prejudice: From attitudes to social action* (2nd ed.). American Psychological Association. https://doi.org/10.1037/0000168-000 | Jackson (2019) _____ _____. Or _____ (Jackson, 2019). | If the book has a DOI, include the DOI link in the reference after the publisher's name, using this format: https://doi.org/10xxxxxx |
| **Book with two authors** Jarvis, C., & Forbes, H. (2021). *Jarvis's physical examination and health assessment* (3rd Australian & New Zealand ed.). Elsevier Australia. | Jarvis and Forbes (2021) _____. Or _____ (Jarvis & Forbes, 2021). | **Reference entry:** Publisher names that include a place, such as Elsevier Australia in this example, are written in full, including the place name. **In-text citation:** Cite both author names every time. |
| **Book with three or more authors, up to and including 20 authors** Perry, A. G., Potter, P. A., & Desmarais, P. L. (2019). *Mosby's pocket guide to nursing skills & procedures* (9th ed.). Elsevier. | Perry et al. (2019) __ _____ . Or __ (Perry et al., 2019). | **Reference entry**: Give surnames and initials for up to and including 20 authors, using an ampersand (&) before the last name. **In-text citation**: Use 'et al.' in the first and all following citations. |
| **Book with organisation as author (e.g., a government agency or professional association)** World Health Organization. (2020). *Coronavirus disease: Infection prevention and control of epidemic and pandemic.* United States Department of Health. | _____ (World Health Organization [WHO], 2020). ***Subsequent citations***: _____ (WHO, 2020). | **In-text citation**: If you are citing the organisational author more than twice in your paper, you can abbreviate it. Provide the full name of the organisation the first time you mention it in the text, followed by the abbreviation. If the organisation name first appears in a citation in brackets, include the abbreviation in square brackets, followed by a comma and the year. |
| **Chapter in an edited book (each chapter by different authors)** Gordon, C. J. (2021). Fostering sleep. In J. Crisp, C. Douglas, G. Rebeiro, & D. Waters (Eds.), *Potter and Perry's fundamentals of nursing* (6th Australian & New Zealand ed., pp. 1132-1156). Elsevier Australia. | Gordon (2021) _____. Or _____ (Gordon, 2021). | **Reference entry:** Publisher names that include a place, like Elsevier Australia in this example, are written in full, including the place name. **In-text citation:** Cite only the author(s) of the *chapter*. |

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| **Journal articles**<br>Speare, T., Rissel, C., Lenth, S., & Pennington, K. (2021). Evaluation of an online medicines' safety course for remote area nurses. *Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing, 38*(4). 24-31. https://doi.org/10.37464/2020.384.325<br>Yeung, P. H. Y., & Rodgers, V. (2017). Quality of long-term care for older people in residential settings: Perceptions of quality of life and care satisfaction from residents and their family members. *Nursing Praxis in New Zealand*, *33*(1), 28-43. | Speare et al. (2021) _____.<br>Or<br>_____ (Speare et al., 2021).<br><br>Yeung and Rodgers (2017) _____.<br>Or<br>_____ (Yeung & Rodgers, 2017). | If the online work you are citing does not have a DOI, and you have retrieved it from a library research database or other library-provided service, you do not need to name that database or provide its URL. Refer to the Yeung and Rodgers example. |
| **Articles from systematic review databases**<br>Amissah, E. A., Brown, J., & Harding, J. E. (2020). Protein supplementation of human milk for promoting growth in preterm infants. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, (9), Article CD000433. https://doi.org/fk9t<br>Keeping-Burke, L., McCloskey, R., Donovan, C., Yetman, L., & Goudreau, A. (2020). Nursing students' experiences with clinical placement in residential aged care facilities: A systematic review of qualitative evidence. *JBI Evidence Synthesis*, *18*(5), 986-1018. https://doi.org/10.11124/JBISRIR-D-19-00122 | Amissah et al. (2020) _____.<br>Or _____ (Amissah et al., 2020).<br><br>Keeping-Burke et al. (2020) _____.<br>Or<br>_____ (Keeping-Burke et al., 2020). | **Reference entry**: Format articles from systematic review databases like journal articles. If an article has an article number include it right after the issue number. Refer to the Amissah example.<br><br>**Note about Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews and JBI databases**: Articles from these databases are available only in those databases. Therefore, unlike most other references, you need to name the database in the reference entry. |
| **Magazine article**<br>Gartner, C., & Hall, W. (2019, November 12). Vaping-related lung disease now has a name – and a likely cause. *New Zealand Listener*. https://www.listener.co.nz/health/health-health/vaping-related-lung-disease-now-has-a-name-and-a-likely-cause | Gartner and Hall (2019) _____.<br><br>Or _____ (Gartner & Hall, 2019). | |
| **Newspaper article**<br>Thomas, R. (2024, February 16). Mental health access "worsening". *The Dominion Post, 5.* | Thomas (2024) _____.<br><br>_____ (Thomas 2024). | **Reference entry**: If there is no author, begin the reference with the title of the article.<br>**In-text citation**: Use the first or first few words of the title, with key words in capitals, in quotation marks. The first word of the citation must match the first word of the reference entry. |

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| **Booklet / Pamphlet**<br>Nursing Council of New Zealand. (2016, September). *Competencies for registered nurses* [Booklet]. https://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz/Public/Nursing/Scopes_of_practice/Registered_Nurse/NCNZ/nursing-section/Registered_nurse.aspx?hkey=57ae602c-4d67-4234-a21e-2568d0350214<br><br>Ministry of Health & Health Promotion Agency. (2018, September). *Alcohol and pregnancy: What you might not know* [Pamphlet]. Health Education. https://www.healthed.govt.nz/system/files/resource-files/HE2523_Alcohol%20and%20Pregnancy_0.pdf | Nursing Council of New Zealand ([NCNZ], 2016) __.<br>***Subsequent citation***:<br>_____ (NCNZ, 2016).<br><br>_____ (Ministry of Health [MOH] & Health Promotion Agency [HPA], 2018).<br>***Subsequent citation***:<br>_____ (MOH & HPA, 2018). | **Reference entry:** If the source type is not obvious from the title, describe it in square brackets after the title e.g. [Booklet]. If the type of resource is obvious, do not add a description.<br>Include the website name if it differs from the author's name. Refer to the MOH and HPA example.<br>**In-text citation**: If you are citing the organisational author more than twice in your paper, you can abbreviate it. Provide the full name of the organisation the first time you mention it in the text, followed by the abbreviation. If the organisation name first appears in a citation in brackets, include the abbreviation in square brackets, followed by a comma and the year. |
| **Fact sheet / Data sheet**<br>Regional Public Health. (2016). *Whooping cough (pertussis)* [Fact sheet]. http://www.rph.org.nz/public-health-topics/early-childhood-centres/fact-sheets/whooping-cough-pertussis.pdf<br>Baxter Healthcare. (2017, April 6). *5% glucose (AVIVA) data sheet*. New Zealand Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority. https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/Datasheet/Baxter5percentGlucoseAvivaInf.pdf | Regional Public Health (2016) _____. Or _____ (Regional Public Health, 2016).<br><br>Baxter Healthcare (2017) _____. Or _____ (Baxter Healthcare, 2017). | **Reference entry:** If the type of resource is not clear from the title, describe it in square brackets after the title to help your reader find the document you have used. e.g. [Fact sheet]. If the format of the document is obvious, do not add a description after the title. Refer to the Baxter Healthcare example. |
| **Guidelines / Standards of practice**<br>Ministry of Health. (2019, May 8). *National SUDI prevention programme: National safe sleep device quality specification guidelines*. https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/national-sudi-prevention-national-safe-sleep-device-quality-spec-guidelines.pdf<br><br>New Zealand Nurses Organisation. (2012, July). *Standards of professional nursing practice.* https://www.nzno.org.nz/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=kC5YpeNKSRk%3D&portalid=0 | _____ (Ministry of Health [MOH], 2019).<br>*Subsequent citation*:<br>_____ (MOH, 2019).<br><br>New Zealand Nurses Organisation ([NZNO], 2012) _____.<br>*Subsequent citation*:<br>NZNO (2012) _____ | **In-text citation**: If you are citing the organisational author more than twice in your paper, you can abbreviate it. Provide the full name of the organisation the first time you mention it in the text, followed by the abbreviation. If the organisation name first appears in a citation in brackets, include the abbreviation in square brackets, followed by a comma and the year. |
| **Action plan**<br>Ministry of Health. (2017, March). *Palliative care action plan.* https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/palliative-care-action-plan_0.pdf | _____ (Ministry of Health [MOH], 2017).<br>*Subsequent citation*:<br>_____ (MOH, 2017). | **In-text citation**: If you are citing the organisational author more than twice, you can abbreviate it. Provide the full name of the organisation the first time you mention it in the text, followed by the abbreviation. If the organisation name first appears in a citation in brackets, include the abbreviation in square brackets, followed by a comma and the year. |

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| **Code of Conduct**<br>Nursing Council of New Zealand. (2012, February). *Code of conduct for nurses* [Booklet full]. https://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz/Public/Nursing/Code_of_Conduct/NCNZ/nursing-section/Code_of_Conduct.aspx | __ (Nursing Council of New Zealand [NCNZ], 2012).<br>*Subsequent citation*:<br>_____ (NCNZ, 2012). | |
| **Legislation / Acts**<br>Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, No. 48. http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2003/0048/latest/DLM203312.html | _____ (Health Practitioners Competence Assurance [HPCA] Act, 2003).<br>*Subsequent citation*:<br>_____ (HPCA Act, 2003). | **Reference entry:** Give the full name of the Act (i.e., name, date, and number) and the date the Act commenced or was enacted (you will find that date on the Act itself). Follow this with the URL.<br>If necessary, refer to an Act's section number(s) in your assignment text, NOT in your citations. |
| **Diagnostic manual / DSM-5**<br>American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed.). https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425596 | _____ (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). | Identify the full title and edition of the manual in the text of your assignment, and then abbreviate it as DSM-5. |
| **Chapter in diagnostic manual**<br>American Psychiatric Association. (2013a). Anxiety disorders. In *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed.). https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425596.dsm05<br>American Psychiatric Association. (2013b). Sleep-wake disorders. In *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed.). https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.books.9780890425596.dsm12 | American Psychiatric Association (2013a) _____.<br><br>_____ (American Psychiatric Association, 2013b). | Chapters in DSM-5 are referenced separately as each chapter has a separate DOI.<br>For works published in the same year by the same author(s), add the suffixes a, b, c etc. to the date in both the in-text citation and the reference list entries. Use the alphabetical order of the titles in the reference list to assign the suffixes. |
| **Entry in a dictionary, thesaurus, or encyclopaedia, with organisation as author**<br>Mosby. (2017). Muscles of ventilation. In M. T. O'Toole (Ed.), *Mosby's dictionary of medicine, nursing & health professions* (10th ed., p. 1175). Elsevier. | Mosby (2017) _____.<br>Or<br>__ (Mosby, 2017). | |
| **Entry in JBI EBP Database**<br>Acupuncture: Managing hot flashes for people with cancer [Recommended practices]. (2020, July 1). *JBI EBP Database.* https://jbi.global/jbi-ebp-database#<br>Marin, T. S. (2019). Effectiveness of interventions to prevent pre-frailty and frailty progression in older adults [Best practice information sheet]. *JBI EBP Database*, *21*(2), 1-5. https://jbi.global/jbi-ebp-database#<br>Moola, S. (2020, August 13). Smoking cessation: Community-based interventions [Evidence summary]. *JBI EBP Database*. https://jbi.global/jbi-ebp-database# | "Acupuncture" (2020) _____.<br>Or<br>_ ("Acupuncture," 2020).<br><br><br>Marin (2019) ___.<br>Or<br>___ (Marin, 2019).<br><br><br>Moola (2020) ___.<br>Or<br>___ (Moola, 2020). | Information in Joanna Briggs Institute databases is available only in those databases. Therefore, name the database in the reference entry, using italics and capital letters (e.g., *Name of Database*). See "Including Database Sources in Reference List Entries" on p. 11 of this Guide.<br>Information retrieved from Joanna Briggs Institute databases requires a login or is session specific, meaning readers cannot access the material via the URL you have used. Therefore, provide the URL of the Joanna Briggs Institute login page instead. |

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| **Entry in Reference Databases such as: DrugBank Online, Community HealthPathways, StatPearls, Lippincott Procedures, Lippincott Advisor, UpToDate, and New Zealand Formulary**<br><br>Acetaminophen. (2023, June 10). DrugBank Online. Retrieved June 12, 2023, from https://go.drugbank.com/drugs/DB00316<br><br>Ansley, C. (Clinical Ed.). (2020, May). Joint aspiration. *Community HealthPathways*. Retrieved September 5, 2020, from https://canterbury.communityhealthpathways.org/330160.htm<br><br>Arterial blood gas analysis (Teaching about diagnostic tests). (2022, January 7). *Lippincott Advisor.* Retrieved March 8, 2022, from https://advisor.lww.com/<br><br>Bailey, I. B., Shaydakov, M. E., & Shaw, P. M. (2022, September 7). Abdominal aorta aneurysm repair. *StatPearls*. Retrieved December 17, 2022, from https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK430752/<br><br>Hand hygiene NZ [Clinical procedures]. (2017, April). *Lippincott Procedures*. Retrieved September 24, 2020, from https://procedures.lww.com/lnp/view.do?pId=4298005&hits=hygiene,hand,hands&a=false&ad=false<br><br>Morey, M. C. (2020, July 24). Physical activity and exercise in older adults. *UpToDate*. Retrieved August 13, 2020, from https://www.uptodate.com<br><br>Thyroid and antithyroid drugs [6.2]. (2020, July 1). *New Zealand Formulary*. Retrieved October 2, 2020,  from https://nzf.org.nz/nzf_3779?searchterm=thyroid%20Thyroid%20and%20antithyroid%20drugs | "Acetaminophen" (2023) _____.<br><br>Ansley (2020) ___. Or<br><br>(Ansley, 2020).<br><br>____ ("Arterial Blood Gas Analysis," 2022).<br><br>Bailey et al. (2022) _____. Or ____ (Bailey et al., 2022).<br><br>"Hand Hygiene NZ" (2017) _____. Or ("Hand Hygiene NZ," 2017).<br><br>Morey (2020) ___. Or __ (Morey, 2020).<br><br>___ ("Thyroid and Antithyroid Drugs," 2020). | Information in DrugBank Online, Community HealthPathways, StatPearls, Lippincott Procedures, Lippincott Advisor, UpToDate, and New Zealand Formulary databases is available *only in those databases*. Therefore, unlike most other references, you need to name the specific database in the reference entry. Use italics and capital letters (e.g., *Name of Database*).<br><br>Also, include a retrieval date, as these databases change their content regularly, and do not archive previous versions of the articles.<br><br>If the URL requires a login or is session specific, meaning readers cannot access the information you have used, provide the URL of the database or login page instead of the URL of the work (as in the Lippincott Advisor and Morey examples).<br><br>Begin a reference with its title if there is no author. |
| **Video available from only a specific database (including LinkedIn Learning & Khan Academy)**<br><br>van Nieuwenhuizen, P. (n.d.). *Thermoregulation in the lungs* [Video]. Khan Academy. https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat/organ-systems/the-respiratory-system/v/thermoregulation-in-the-lungs | Van Nieuwenhuizen (n.d.) _____. Or<br><br>_____ (van Nieuwenhuizen, n.d.). | If the work is available only from a specific database or source, name the database in the source element, and provide the URL of the work. |
| **Materials retrieved from Moodle**<br><br>Department of Health Practice. (2020). *Nervous system: Spinal cord and peripheral nervous system* [BNNS501 PowerPoint slides]. Ara Moodle. https://moodle.ara.ac.nz/mod/folder/view.php?id=389871<br><br>Health New Zealand. (2025, June). *Adult inpatient vital signs monitoring* [BNCI701 course material]. Ara Moodle. https://moodle.ara.ac.nz/course/view.php?id=22247 | Department of Health Practice, (2020) _____. Or __ (Department of Health Practice, 2020).<br><br>Health New Zealand (2025) _____.    Or _____ (Health New Zealand, 2025). | If you are writing for an audience with access to these materials, provide the name of the site and its URL. For sites requiring login, use the homepage or login page URL.<br><br>If a resource cannot be referenced to its original source, such as this material from Health New Zealand, reference it to where it is available.<br><br>However, if the audience for whom you are writing does not have access to the materials, cite them as personal communication (see below). |

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| **Visual Works (e.g., infographic, graphs, diagrams, charts, maps and photographs)** Statistics New Zealand. (2019, September 23). *New Zealand population in 2018: Key data* [Infographic]. https://www.stats.govt.nz/infographics/new-zealand-as-a-village-of-100-people-2018-census-data | Statistics New Zealand (2019) _____. ____ (Statistics New Zealand, 2019). | Use this format to cite (but not *reproduce*) infographics. If you are reproducing (reprinting or adapting) these images see "Tables and Figures" section in ***APA Referencing: A Guide for Ara Institute of Canterbury 2025*** for referencing and copyright attribution requirements. |
| **Webpage with organisation or agency as author** Ministry of Health. (2018, December 5). *Māori health*. https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/populations/maori-health  World Health Organization. (n.d.). *The 1st International Conference on Health Promotion, Ottawa, 1986.* http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/previous/ottawa/en/ | ____ (Ministry of Health [MOH], 2018). *Subsequent citation:* ___ (MOH, 2018). World Health Organization ([WHO], n.d.) _____. *Subsequent citation:* WHO (n.d.) _____. | With organisational or government agency websites, the organisation or agency itself is the author, unless otherwise specified. When the author's name and the website name are the same, omit the website name from the source element. Otherwise, write the website name before the URL. |
| **Multiple webpages from the same website, same year** World Health Organization. (2019a). *7 million people receive record levels of lifesaving TB treatment but 3 million still miss out.* https://www.who.int/tb/en/ World Health Organization. (2019b). *Strategies for oral disease prevention and health promotion.* https://www.who.int/oral_health/strategies/en | _____ (World Health Organization [WHO], 2019a). *Subsequent citation*: _____ (WHO, 2019a). _____ (World Health Organization [WHO], 2019b). *Subsequent citation*: _____ (WHO, 2019b). | If you have used more than one webpage from the same website, create a separate reference entry for each webpage. Add suffixes a, b, c etc. to the date e.g., 2019a, 2019b, n.d.-a, n.d.-b. Use the alphabetical order of the *titles* in the reference list to assign the suffixes. |
| **Using secondary sources (content first cited in another source)** Lyon, J., Scialfa, C., Cordazzo, S. T. D., & Bubric, K. (2014). Contextual cuing: The effects of stimulus variation, intentionality, and aging. *Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*, *68*(2), 111-121. https://doi.org/10.1037/cep0000007 | Rabbitt (1982, as cited in Lyon et al., 2014) explained that _____. Or ___ (Rabbitt 1982, as cited in Lyon et al., 2014). | If the author of your work has paraphrased or quoted another work, and you want to cite that work, cite the authors of *both* sources in the text of your assignment. Provide a reference list entry only for the source you have read. |

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| **Personal communication (e.g., lecture, guest speaker, email, interview)**<br><br>Cite personal communication in your assignment text.<br><br>Do **not** include personal communication in your reference list, as that information is not recoverable. | Registered Nurse B. Thompson (personal communication, May 11, 2021) reported that ___.<br>Or<br>_____ (Registered Nurse B. Thompson [personal communication], May 11, 2021). | Capitalise a job title only if it comes immediately before a name. |
| Cite <mark>personal reflections</mark> only in your assignment text.<br><br>When citing personal reflections from your practice journal or work placement journal, refer to yourself as "the author" because most assignments and assessments are graded through anonymous marking (also known as blind marking). This means the marker is not supposed to know the name of the assessed student, which helps to ensure impartial marking.<br><br>Do _not_ include your practice journal or work placement journal in your reference list, as that information is not recoverable. | The author's Practice Journal (November 14, 2023) stated ____.<br>Or<br>_____ (Author's Practice Journal, November 14, 2023). | |