



Abstract Guidelines

Academics, researchers, industry, government agencies, healthcare professionals, patient organizations, and students who have conducted rare disease research studies or public health projects relevant in rare disease are invited to submit an abstract for inclusion in the poster hall at the **National Organization for Rare Disorders'** Rare Disease and Orphan Products Breakthrough Summit® taking place **October 25-27, 2026**.

The NORD Breakthrough Summit Abstract Review Committee is interested in abstracts that highlight new research, change clinical practice, enhance patient care, address disparities in health or increase patient engagement or patient advocacy. The five (5) categories listed below are the focus areas for the event. Please use these as a guide to develop your abstract for consideration of inclusion in the NORD Breakthrough Summit Poster Hall.

Categories

1. Innovative Research in Rare Diseases and Orphan Products

Abstracts may cover any type of innovative rare disease or orphan products research, including preclinical models, clinical studies, case studies, patient-focused studies, technological, economic, or policy research as it relates to health and social issues. Also included in this theme are collaborative initiatives and centers of excellence that involve ground-breaking strategies or projects that could be useful to other groups, organizations, patients, government, academics or professionals in the rare disease and orphan product community.

2. Medical Education Advancement in Rare Diseases and Orphan Products

Abstracts should cover public health awareness and education of healthcare professionals (HCPs); information exchange or training that leads to advancements in screening and/or diagnosis; or innovative models for medical education training.

3. Patient Engagement and Education in Rare Diseases

Abstracts should highlight novel approaches to educating and engaging patients; models for incorporating patient input into study designs and protocols; or effective strategies to elevate patient advocacy and awareness using technology or communications.

4. Access to Rare Disease Diagnosis, Treatment and Care

Abstracts in this category should include research or programming to address barriers to diagnosis, treatment, or care for those living with rare diseases, including disparities in outcomes or access to services.

5. Other Topics

These abstracts should still relate to the overall topic of rare diseases and orphan products but do not fit within the themes previously listed.

Eligibility

You may submit poster abstracts under one of the two submission groupings below:

1. Student (graduate or undergraduate)

Individuals submitting an abstract under the student category must be an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a Bachelor's, Master's, PharmD, MD, DVM, or PhD (or equivalent) academic program at an accredited academic institution. *Individuals must be able to provide documentation of this enrollment upon request.*

The submitted research must have been conducted at an academic institution.

Individuals who completed a degree during the 2026 academic year may submit a student poster only if they are able to provide documentation that they were an eligible student at the time the research was conducted.

2. Professional (post-doctoral scholars, medical residents/fellows/professionals, patient advocates/advocacy groups, government agencies and manufacturers)

Key Dates

Submission deadline via submission form	July 22, 2026
NORD notifies authors of acceptance on this date	August 24, 2026
Registration deadline for accepted Abstract attendees	October 1, 2026
Deadline for Digital posters for Accepted Abstracts Attendees. (Digital posters sent after this date are not guaranteed to be included in the event app.)	October 1, 2026
In-person Poster Setup in Poster Hall for those with accepted abstracts	October 25, 2026

General Requirements & Guidelines

1. All abstracts must be submitted by July 22, 2026, with no exceptions. Abstracts will only be accepted via this [form](#).
2. All poster abstracts must be **non-commercial**.
 - Do **not** include any brand names, trade names, or logos of any companies that produce, market, resell, or distribute healthcare products or services **used on patients**.
 - If you refer to a product or service, use the **generic name only**.
 - Brand or trade names are **not allowed anywhere**, including in the **poster title**.
3. Posters should include data for consideration. Preliminary and pilot data will be accepted.
4. Abstracts should be original in research and include appropriate empirical evidence.
5. Encore abstracts are welcome under the following conditions:
 - The work has not been widely shared or presented within the rare disease community prior to the NORD Breakthrough Summit.
 - If previously presented to a similar audience, the data must be meaningfully updated prior to submission.
 - The work does not violate nor infringe upon any copyright or proprietary restrictions of any third party or from prior presentations, such as previous conferences or congresses.
6. Copyright and Permissions: Authors who include materials that are not their own (e.g., images, charts, graphs, etc.) in their abstract must cite the original source. If authors draw heavily on another source or use substantial portions of another work, it is the responsibility of the author(s) to seek and obtain permission to use the material.
7. Use of data accepted and/or published as a journal article: Data accepted or published by a medical or academic journal may be used if it is cited and does not infringe on any copyright issues with the journal. It is the responsibility of the author(s) to seek and receive permission to use the data.
8. Referral to webpages or URLs may not be used in the abstract.
9. Author(s) may not submit the same abstract under more than one category. Duplicate submissions will not be accepted.
10. Author(s) may not present more than three abstracts during the NORD Summit, and each abstract must be different.
11. Submission of an abstract constitutes a commitment by the presenting author to **present their work in-person** at the NORD Breakthrough Summit Poster Hall if the abstract is accepted.

Format

Abstracts should be **no more than one page**, excluding space for tables and figures, and utilize the following specifications:

- Minimum font size 11
- Single-spaced rows
- One-inch margins

Abstracts should be organized as follows:

- **Title of Abstract**
- **Authors, Institution, and Institution Location** (City, State or Province, and Country)
 - Provide all authors' names in the order in which they should be listed.
 - Presenting author to be designated prior to submission
- **Purpose:** Rationale of the study and/or the question addressed
- **Background:** Brief context around your study topic and why it is important
- **Methods:** Experimental approach, materials, and methods used in the study
- **Results:** Data and results obtained in the study
- **Conclusions:** Conclusions and/or implications of the results

Abstracts *must* adhere to the formatting guidelines and not exceed one page (excluding figures/tables). Submissions that do not comply will not be reviewed.

Notification

Abstracts will be evaluated by the 2026 NORD Breakthrough Summit Abstract Review Committee. The main contact for each abstract will be notified by NORD staff about acceptance or nonacceptance **on** August 24, 2026. If an abstract is accepted, the main contact will receive additional information about the poster presentation format and requirements.

Spotlight Opportunity: Lightning Round Presentations

Five selected abstracts will be chosen by the review committee for Lightning Round oral presentations at the 2026 NORD Breakthrough Summit. This will allow the author 5 minutes on our main stage to share key findings of their research with our audience.

Notification and all correspondence will be with the main point of contact and additional contacts noted on the submission form.

Accepted Abstracts

As stated above, the submission of an abstract constitutes a commitment by the presenting author to purchase a registration for Summit and present their work in the poster hall if the abstract is accepted. All additional abstract authors are encouraged to purchase a registration to attend the Summit. If the original designated presenting author is unable to attend, a co-author may be designated as an alternate presenter.

Authors of accepted abstracts will prepare a physical poster for the NORD Breakthrough Summit Poster Hall, as well as a PDF version for the Summit app.

Embargo Policy: If your abstract is accepted, NORD requests that your poster not be shared publicly before the start of the NORD Breakthrough Summit on Sunday, October 25, 2026.

NORD does not assign nor retain copyright on posters submitted for the NORD Breakthrough Summit. Therefore, any permissions to reuse materials after the NORD Breakthrough Summit should be approved by the authors directly.

Accepted abstracts may be publicly available on the NORD Summit website for up to two years after the conference.