



# Revista Española de Medicina Legal

## AUTHORS INFORMATION PACK

### GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

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#### INTRODUCTION

*The Spanish Journal of Legal Medicine (Revista Española de Medicina Legal)*, first published in 1974, is the official Journal of the National Association of Forensic Physicians (la Asociación Nacional de Médicos Forenses).

The Journal publishes scientific articles of different topics in the field of legal and forensic medicine which are represented as a learning tool of the specialty that gives the reader an update of different topics in the field of legal and forensic medicine. It also serves as continuing education in practical aspects of the daily work of the forensic physician in the field of the Administration of Justice.

The Journal incorporates all groups- forensic physicians, specialists in legal and forensic medicine, university teachers, forensic laboratories specialists, psychiatrists and psychologists, experts in the assessment of body injury, scientific police and legal experts interested in the subject.

#### **Types of article**

Any article submitted to this journal must include a series of declarations both on the first page and in the body of the article in some cases.

#### FIRST PAGE OR TITLE PAGE

The declarations that must be included on the first page, which contains the title, authors, affiliation, and email address of the corresponding author, will vary depending on the type of article. Some declarations, such as Ethical Considerations and Informed Consent, will also be stated in the BODY OF THE ARTICLE.

Declarations will be required even if they are also requested on the submission platform or if the author considers that they do not exist or are not applicable.

#### **Ethical Considerations**

Any article that includes experiments with humans will require the author to declare that all procedures were conducted in accordance with Helsinki, relevant laws, and institutional guidelines. The reference number of the study's approval by an ethics committee will be included in the Originals where there is human experimentation. In Originals involving animal experimentation, compliance with the corresponding regulations will also be noted.

This is a mandatory declaration for Originals and Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses.

#### **Informed Consent**

It will be declared that there are no patient data in the article, when applicable, and if there are, that they do not violate the privacy and confidentiality of the patient, nor allow recognition, and that in any case, written informed consent has been obtained from the patients for participation

in research and the presentation of results in a publication.

The privacy rights of human subjects must always be respected. Appropriate consents and permissions must be obtained when presenting one or more cases (anonymized) without experimentation or when an author wishes to include details or other personal information or images of patients and any other individuals in an Elsevier publication. Isolated data such as age, sex, service, or institution presented together can breach the patient's privacy and confidentiality. Images accompanied by any patient data always require this statement.

The author will retain the written consents and will only provide Elsevier with copies of the consents or proof of their acquisition upon request.

When the Original research refers to retrospective studies in which obtaining informed consent is not possible, the author must obtain an exemption from this declaration from their institution's Ethics Committee to proceed with the research.

This declaration is mandatory for Originals.

### **Funding**

The author will identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and will briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if applicable, in the study design; in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; in drafting the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement, this should also be declared.

This is a mandatory declaration for all sections. In the absence of funding, it will state "Funding: none."

### **Conflict of Interest**

The existence of any financial and personal relationship with other individuals or organizations that may have influenced their work must be specified, even if it is not directly related to the current manuscript. Examples of possible competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and other funding, as well as travel grants and participation in courses and conferences as a paid expert. If none of the above conditions are disclosed, the following statement should be added: "Declaration of interest: none."

This declaration is always mandatory. There will be a declaration for each participating author. If there is none, it will state: "Conflict of interest: none."

### **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Scientific Writing**

Other uses are not authorized. Please refer to the description further along in these guidelines.

This statement is always mandatory when used.

### **Authorship**

All authors must have made substantial contributions in each of the following aspects: (1) the conception and design of the study, or the acquisition of data, or the analysis and interpretation of the data; (2) drafting the article or critically revising the intellectual content; (3) final approval of the version to be submitted. Changes in authorship or alterations to their order cannot be made once the article has been submitted without prior justification and approval from the Editor in Chief.

### **BODY OF THE ARTICLE**

In the case of experiments involving animals or humans, certain statements must be included within the manuscript even if they are also required on the submission platform or on the first page.

### **Ethics and Informed Consent**

In the case of experiments on human subjects or animals, the author will declare in the materials and methods section that the Human and Animal Rights guidelines described in the "Ethics in Publication" section of this guide for authors have been followed. In particular, if experimenting with human subjects, the authors will confirm that the research has been conducted in accordance with the World Medical Association code of ethics (Declaration of Helsinki), and in the case of animals, that the ARRIVE guidelines have been followed or that they are acting in accordance with the Animal Laboratory Use and Care Act and, where applicable, the Animal Welfare Act.

The authors must also declare in the materials and methods section (Original) that they have obtained informed consent and approval from the Clinical Research Ethics Committee (CREC) or the relevant committee without disclosing data that would hinder blinded assessment. Please note that the Spanish Law on Biomedical Research establishes that the Ethics Committees for Research corresponding to each centre must evaluate all biomedical research involving human interventions or the use of their biological samples.

Appropriate consents and permissions must be obtained when presenting one or more cases without experimentation, or when an author wishes to include details or other personal information or images of patients and any other individuals in an Elsevier publication. The author will retain the written consent forms and provide Elsevier with copies of the consent forms, or evidence of having obtained them, upon request.

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## **SECTIONS**

### ***Editorials***

With few exceptions, these will be by invitation of the Editorial Committee and on a current topic, which may or may not refer to an article published in the same issue of *Revista Española de Medicina Legal*. These will usually be of 800-1,000 words in length and with a maximum of 15 literature references. Only one author is preferable.

### ***Originals***

Medico-legal, experimental, or technical descriptions that contribute to increasing the knowledge on a topic in the field of the Journal. Original articles should follow a format of, Introduction, Material and Methods, Results and Discussion. The maximum length of text will be approximately 3,500 words, and up to 6 Tables or Figures will be accepted. It is essential to include a structured abstract, in Spanish and English, of no more than 250 words in length. After the Abstract (*Resumen*), from 3 to 8 keywords will be added. The bibliography should be restricted to a maximum of 30 references.

If the original article is a clinical trial, *Revista Española de Medicina Legal* recommends that all authors should register it in a public electronic and free access register, following the recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE, <http://www.icmje.org/faq.pdf>). In this sense, every clinical trial is defined as a research project that prospectively assigns human subjects to a particular intervention or group to study the cause-effect relationship between the intervention and a clinical result. The investigators who conduct a randomised prospective trial should consult the latest version of the CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials, <http://www.consort-statement.org/>) and include a flow-chart of the type recommended by CONSORT, detailing the distribution of the subjects to study during the trial. Prospective and randomised studies should be clearly identified in the title and abstract of the article. Additionally, the register number and the name of the register must be included in the last line of the abstract.

Clinical trials may be registered in any of the following registers (or in others that meet the ICMJE requirements):

- Clinical Trials: <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/>
- ISRCTN Register: <http://www.controlled-trials.com/isrctn/>
- Netherlands Trial Register: <http://www.trialregister.nl/trialreg/index.asp>
- UMIN Clinical Trials Registry: <http://www.umin.ac.jp/ctr>

### **Short Originals**

These should have a maximum length of 1,300 -1,500 words, a structured Abstract, of 150 words, in Spanish and English, After the Abstract, between 3 to 6 keywords will be added. The bibliography should be restricted to a maximum of 10 references, and no more than two illustrations. The maximum number of signing authors will be six.

### **Reviews**

*Revista Española de Medicina Legal* will give special priority to those review works that deal with current topics. The maximum length of the text will be approximately 4,500 words, and up to 6 Figures or Tables will be accepted. It is essential to include an unstructured abstract, in Spanish and English, of no more than 150 words in length. Between 3 and 8 keywords will be added after the abstracts, in Spanish and English. The bibliography should be restricted to a maximum of 50 references.

If the authors carry out a systematic review of the literature, or a meta-analysis, on a topic, they should follow the recommendations proposed by QUOROM (Quality of Reporting of Meta-analyses) (Moher D, Cook DJ, Eastwood S, Olkin I, Rennie D, Stroup DF, for the QUOROM Group. Improving the quality of reports of meta-analyses of randomised controlled trials: the QUOROM statement. *Lancet*. 1999; 354:1896-900) ([www.consort-statement.org/QUOROM.pdf](http://www.consort-statement.org/QUOROM.pdf)).

### **Special Articles**

Articles related to *Medicina Legal y Forense* will be included in this section, which, due to its characteristics, cannot be considered for the *Originals* or *Reviews* section. The maximum length of text will be approximately 3,000 words, and up to 4 Tables and/or Figures will be accepted. There should be no more than 30 literature references. It is essential to include an unstructured abstract, in Spanish and English, of no more than 150 words in length. Between 3 and 8 keywords will be added after the abstracts, in Spanish and English.

### **Medical-forensic cases**

The Editorial Committee of the *Revista Española de Medicina Legal* will evaluate those medico-legal reports that, due to their relevance, may have a clear informative value for the readers of the Journal. They could include case studies in which new or exceptional aspects are described, or which add significant appraisals. Additionally, clinical cases associated with Legal Medicine will also be considered for publication. The maximum length will be approximately 900 words and should be structured into the following sections: Introduction, Medical-forensic description, and Discussion. Up to 2 Figures and 2 Tables will be accepted. There should be no more than 15 literature references. The maximum number of authors will be 5. It will include an unstructured abstract, in Spanish and English, of no more than 150 words in length. Between 3 and 8 keywords will be added after the abstracts, in Spanish and English.

### **Practical Forensic Medicine**

In this section, descriptions will be presented on the basic concepts as regards procedures, examinations, or interpretation of tests of use in Legal and Forensic Medicine.

The maximum length will be approximately 1,500 words, up to 3 Figures will be accepted and there must be no more than 10 literature references. The maximum number of authors will be 6.

### ***Legal Medicine in Images***

Forensic and/or medical images that have educational value will be included in this category. The maximum length of the text, in which a short summary of the case, along with a short discussion will be presented. It will contain between 150 and 300 words. The image quality should be at least 600 dots per inch (dpi) and in TIFF or JPEG format. The differential diagnosis of the case should be indicated at the end of the text. The maximum number of authors allowed will be 4, and the bibliography should not contain more than 5 references.

### ***Letters to the Editor***

The Editorial Committee encourages readers of the *Revista Española de Medicina Legal* to submit objections or comments associated with articles recently published in the Journal and, in some cases, on relevant articles published in other journals. This correspondence must contain interesting ideas and comments, which must always be supported by data and by a maximum of 10 literature references. If possible, the letter will be published simultaneously with the response by the authors of the commented article. The maximum length will be 450 words. The maximum number of authors will be 4.

### ***Other sections***

The Journal also includes literature Comments, which will be written by a prior commission of the Editorial Team, who will indicate the desired format.

### ***Contact details for submission***

You can send your manuscript at <http://ees.elsevier.com/reml>

### ***Page charges***

This journal has no page charges.

### ***Language***

This journal is published in Spanish and in English language.

### ***Submission checklist***

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

#### **Ensure that the following items are present:**

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

- E-mail address
- Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

*Manuscript:*

- Include keywords

- All figures (include relevant captions)
- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
- Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

*Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files* (where applicable)

*Supplemental files* (where applicable)

Further considerations

- Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
- **Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)**
- A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed

For further information, visit our [Support Center](#).

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

### *Ethics in publishing*

Please see our information pages on [Ethics in publishing](#) and [Ethical guidelines for journal publication](#).

### *Studies in humans and animals*

If the work involves the use of human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with [The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association](#) (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans. The manuscript should be in line with the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#) and aim for the inclusion of representative human populations (sex, age and ethnicity) as per those recommendations. The terms [sex and gender](#) should be used correctly.

Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

All animal experiments should comply with the [ARRIVE guidelines](#) and should be carried out in accordance with the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, [EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments](#), or the National Institutes of Health guide for the care and use of Laboratory animals (NIH Publications No. 8023, revised 1978) and the authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript that such guidelines have been followed. The sex of animals must be indicated, and where appropriate, the influence (or association) of sex on the results of the study.

### *Informed consent and patient details*

Studies on patients or volunteers require ethics committee approval and informed consent, which should be documented in the paper. Appropriate consents, permissions and releases must be obtained where an author wishes to include case details or other personal information or images of patients and any other individuals in an Elsevier publication. Written consents must be retained by the author but copies should not be provided to the journal. Only if

specifically requested by the journal in exceptional circumstances (for example if a legal issue arises) the author must provide copies of the consents or evidence that such consents have been obtained. For more information, please review the [Elsevier Policy on the Use of Images or Personal Information of Patients or other Individuals](#). Unless you have written permission from the patient (or, where applicable, the next of kin), the personal details of any patient included in any part of the article and in any supplementary materials (including all illustrations and videos) must be removed before submission.

### **Declaration of interest**

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors must disclose any interests in two places: 1. A summary declaration of interest statement in the title page file (if double-blind) or the manuscript file (if single-blind). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. This summary statement will be ultimately published if the article is accepted. 2. Detailed disclosures as part of a separate Declaration of Interest form, which forms part of the journal's official records. It is important for potential interests to be declared in both places and that the information matches. [More information](#).

### **Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing**

The below guidance only refers to the writing process, and not to the use of AI tools to analyse and draw insights from data as part of the research process.

Where authors use generative artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process, authors should only use these technologies to improve readability and language. Applying the technology should be done with human oversight and control, and authors should carefully review and edit the result, as AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete or biased. AI and AI-assisted technologies should not be listed as an author or co-author, or be cited as an author. Authorship implies responsibilities and tasks that can only be attributed to and performed by humans, as outlined in Elsevier's [AI policy for authors](#).

Authors should disclose in their manuscript the use of AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by following the instructions below. A statement will appear in the published work. Please note that authors are ultimately responsible and accountable for the contents of the work.

### **Disclosure instructions**

Authors must disclose the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by adding a statement at the end of their manuscript in the core manuscript file, before the References list. The statement should be placed in a new section entitled 'Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process'.

*Statement: During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.*

This declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, references etc. If there is nothing to disclose, there is no need to add a statement.



## **Submission declaration and verification**

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis, see '[Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication](#)' section of our ethics policy for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service [Crossref Similarity Check](#).

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## **Sex and gender reporting**

### **Reporting guidance**

For research involving or pertaining to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells, investigators should integrate sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) into their research design according to funder/sponsor requirements and best practices within a field. Authors should address the sex and/or gender dimensions of their research in their article. In cases where they cannot, they should discuss this as a limitation to their research's generalizability. Importantly, authors should explicitly state what definitions of sex and/or gender they are applying to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of their research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer (see Definitions section below). Authors can refer to the [SSex and Gender Equity in Research \(SAGER\) guidelines](#) and the [S SAGER guidelines checklist](#). These offer systematic approaches to the use and editorial review of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation - however, please note there is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender.

### **Definitions**

Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth"), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society. Sex and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms "sex" and "gender" can be ambiguous—thus it is important for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the [Sresources on this page](#) offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.



## Authorship

All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, (3) final approval of the version to be submitted.

## Changes to authorship

Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors **before** submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only **before** the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the **corresponding author**: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed.

Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors **after** the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

## Clinical trial results

In line with the position of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, the journal will not consider results posted in the same clinical trials registry in which primary registration resides to be prior publication if the results posted are presented in the form of a brief structured (less than 500 words) abstract or table. However, divulging results in other circumstances (e.g., investors' meetings) is discouraged and may jeopardise consideration of the manuscript. Authors should fully disclose all posting in registries of results of the same or closely related work.

## Reporting clinical trials

Randomized controlled trials should be presented according to the CONSORT guidelines. At manuscript submission, authors must provide the CONSORT checklist accompanied by a flow diagram that illustrates the progress of patients through the trial, including recruitment, enrollment, randomization, withdrawal and completion, and a detailed description of the randomization procedure. The [CONSORT checklist and template flow diagram](#) are available online.

## Registration of clinical trials

Registration in a public trials registry is a condition for publication of clinical trials in this journal in accordance with [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#) recommendations. Trials must register at or before the onset of patient enrolment. The clinical trial registration number should be included at the end of the abstract of the article. A clinical trial is defined as any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects of health outcomes. Health-related interventions include any intervention used to modify a biomedical or health-related outcome (for example drugs, surgical procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, dietary interventions, and process-of-care changes). Health outcomes include any biomedical or health-related measures obtained in patients or participants, including pharmacokinetic measures and adverse

events. Purely observational studies (those in which the assignment of the medical intervention is not at the discretion of the investigator) will not require registration.

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### **Role of the funding source**

You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

### **Elsevier Researcher Academy**

[Researcher Academy](#) is a free e-learning platform designed to support early and mid-career researchers throughout their research journey. The "Learn" environment at Researcher Academy offers several interactive modules, webinars, downloadable guides and resources to guide you through the process of writing for research and going through peer review. Feel free to use these free resources to improve your submission and navigate the publication process with ease.

### **Language (usage and editing services)**

Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the [English Language Editing service](#) available from Elsevier's Author Services.

### **Submission**

Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. The system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

### *Submit your article*

Please submit your article via <http://ees.elsevier.com/remi>

## **PREPARATION**

### **Peer review**

This journal operates a double anonymized review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of

articles. The Editor's decision is final. Editors are not involved in decisions about papers which they have written themselves or have been written by family members or colleagues or which relate to products or services in which the editor has an interest. Any such submission is subject to all of the journal's usual procedures, with peer review handled independently of the relevant editor and their research groups. [More information on types of peer review](#).

### **Double-blind review**

This journal uses double-anonymized review, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. [More information](#) is available on our website. To facilitate this, please include the following separately:

*Title page (with author details):* This should include the title, authors' names affiliations, acknowledgements and any Declaration of Interest statement, and a complete address for the corresponding author including an e-mail address.

*Anonymized manuscript (no author details):* The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, tables and any acknowledgements) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

### **Use of word processing software**

It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the [Guide to Publishing with Elsevier](#)). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

### **Article structure**

#### **Original article**

##### **Structure of original articles and brief reports**

Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Each subsection is given a brief heading (Introduction, Material and Methods, Results and Conclusions). Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Subsections should be used as much as possible when cross-referencing text: refer to the subsection by heading as opposed to simply 'the text'.

#### **Introduction**

It will be brief and must only provide the information necessary for the reader to be able to understand the text that follows later. It must not contain Tables or Figures. The last paragraph should include a clear statement of the objective/s of the work.

#### **Material and methods**

In the first paragraph of the Materials and methods section, it must state; the design type (experimental, clinical, retrospective, prospective, observational, clinical trial, controlled or not,

etc.), and field of the study (whether or not it is multicentred, type of centre, etc.). The methods and procedures used will be presented with sufficient detail that will enable other investigators to reproduce the research. In clinical trials, the randomisation method will be given in detail. Additionally, it must specify the method used to calculate the sample size, specifying the main endpoint of the study and the estimations made to calculate it. The methodology used for the statistical analysis must be explained.

Whenever it is intended to publish a rare observation, the literature search method must be given in detail, the key words used, the years covered, and the date it was performed.

When studies conducted on humans are submitted, it must be indicated whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical guidelines of the Committee responsible for human research (institutional or regional) and with the principles of the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, revised in 1983, and available at <http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm>. A photocopy of the corresponding Ethics Committee approval will be provided. When animal research is conducted, it should state whether the Regulations of the European Community on Animal Research were followed.

## *Results*

They state, not interpret, the observations made with the material and methods employed. These data will be presented in a logical sequence and may be expressed in detail in the text or in the form of Tables and Figures, but the data in the Tables or Figures should not be repeated in the text.

## *Discussion*

The authors will attempt to give their own opinions on the subject, without repeating the details provided in the Introduction or in the Results. Emphasise here: a) the significance and practical application of the results; b) thoughts on a possible inconsistency of the methodology, and the reasons why the results may be valid; c) relationship with similar publications and a comparison between the areas of agreement and disagreement, and d) the indications and directions for future research, putting forward new hypotheses when justified, clearly labelling them as such. Emphasis should be made on the new and important aspects of the study and, in the conclusions that they are obtained.

## *Appendices*

If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

## **Essential title page information**

- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name between parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the

country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.

- **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. **Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.**

- **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

### Structured abstract

A structured abstract, by means of appropriate headings, should provide the context or background for the research and should state its purpose, basic procedures (selection of study subjects or laboratory animals, observational and analytical methods), main findings (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance, if possible), and principal conclusions. It should emphasize new and important aspects of the study or observations.

### Headings

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Armendáriz-Rubio P, De Miguel Velasco M, Ortiz Hurtado H. Comparación de colostomías e ileostomías como estomas derivativos tras resección anterior baja. Cir Esp. 2007;81:115-20.

#### **Standard journal article with more than 6 authors:**

Bujalance Cabrera FM, Herrera Merino N, Salvador Fernández M, Escudero Escudero J, Sierra Ortega MA, Oliva Díaz C, et al. Tratamiento quirúrgico de la peritonitis. Cir Esp. 2007;81:139-43.

#### **Supplement Article of a volume:**

Del Río C, Biondo S, Martí-Ragué J. Incontinencia fecal. Valoración del paciente. Tratamientos clásicos. Cir Esp. 2005;78 Suppl 3:34-40.

**Article In press:**

Serra C, Baltasar A, Pérez N, Bou R, Bengochea M. Re-gastrectomía tubular laparoscópica. Cir Esp. In press 2007.

**The author is an organisation:**

Diabetes Prevention Program Research Group. Hypertension, insulin, and proinsulin in participants with impaired glucose tolerance. Hypertension. 2002;40:679-86.

**Individual and Organisation, both are authors:**

Vallancien G, Emberton M, Harving N, Van Moorselaar RJ; Alf-One Study Group. Sexual dysfunction in 1274 European men suffering from lower urinary tract symptoms. J Urol. 2003;169:2257-61.

**No author:**

21st century heart solution may have a sting in the tail. BMJ. 2002;325:184.

**Volume with a Supplement:**

Geraud G, Spierings EL, Keywood C. Tolerability and safety of frovatriptan with short- and long-term use for treatment of migraine and in comparison with sumatriptan. Headache. 2002;42 Suppl 2:S93-9.

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Glauser TA. Integrating clinical trial data into clinical practice. Neurology. 2002;58 (12 Suppl 7):S6-12.

**Book and Book chapter**

**Whole book**

*Authors as editors:*

Mvoelkel NF, MacNee W, Editors. Chronic obstructive lung diseases. Hamilton: BC Decker Inc.; 2002.

*Personal author(s) (no editors):*

Murray PR, Rosenthal KS, Kobayashi GS, Pfaller MA. Medical microbiology. 4thEd. St. Louis: Mosby; 2002.

*Different Authors and Editors:*

Breedlove GK, Schorfheide AM. Adolescent pregnancy. 2ndEd. In: Wiecek RR, Editor. White Plains: March of Dimes Education Services; 2001.

*Organisation as Author:*

Royal Adelaide Hospital; University of Adelaide, Department of Clinical Nursing. Compendium of nursing research and practice development, 1999-2000. Adelaide: Adelaide University; 2001.

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Weibel ER. The structural basis of lung function. In: West JB, Editor. Respiratory physiology: people and ideas. New York: Oxford University Press; 1996; pp. 3-46.

**Legal texts**

**Real Decreto** 386/1996, de 1 de marzo, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento de los Institutos de Medicina Legal. Boletín Oficial del Estado, 9 de marzo de 1996, núm. 60, pp. 9633-9636.

**Ley** 29/1980, de 21 de junio, de autopsias clínicas. Boletín Oficial del Estado, 27 de junio de 1980, núm. 154, p. 14636-14637.

**Decret** 411/2006, de 31 d'octubre, pel qual s'aprova el Reglament de l'Institut de Medicina Legal de Catalunya. Diari Oficial de la Generalitat de Catalunya, 3 de noviembre de 2006, núm. 4753, p. 45601-45606.

**Decreto** 106/1996, de 11 de junio, por el que se aprueban las normas de Policía Sanitaria Mortuoria. Boletín Oficial de Aragón, 21 de junio de 1996, núm. 72, p. 2896-2898.

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### **Documents in electronic format**

#### **Standard article in electronic format:**

Morse SS. Factors in the emergence of infectious diseases. Emerg Infect Dis [electronic journal] 1995; 1 [consulted on 05-06-1996]: Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/eid.htm>

#### **CD-ROM:**

Anderson SC, Poulsen KB. Anderson's electronic atlas of haematology [CD-ROM]. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2002.

#### **Internet site (page):**

Cancer-Pain.org [page on internet]. New York: Association of Cancer Online Resources, Inc.; c2000-01 (updated 16 May 2002; referenced 9 July 2002). Available at: <http://www.cancer-pain.org/>

### **Court judgements**

#### **Supreme Court:**

España. Tribunal Supremo (Sala de lo Penal, Sección 1ª). Sentencia núm. 1229/2017 de 29 de marzo.

Cita en texto: (STS 1229/2017 de 29 de marzo).

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España. Tribunal Constitucional (Pleno). Sentencia núm. 35/2017 de 1 de marzo.

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España. Tribunal Constitucional (Pleno). [Versión electrónica. Base de datos de Westlaw] Sentencia núm. 35/2017 de 1 de marzo [Consultado el 20 de abril de 2017].

#### **Internet:**

España. Tribunal Constitucional (Pleno). [Internet] Sentencia núm. 35/2017 de 1 de marzo [Consultado el 20 de abril de 2017]. Disponible en: <http://hj.tribunalconstitucional.es/es/Resolucion/Show/25277>

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### ***Other published material***

#### **Conference Proceedings:**

Harnden P, Joffe JK, Jones WG, Editors. Germ cell tumours V. Proceedings of the 5th Germ Cell Tumour Conference; 13-15 September 2001; Leeds, UK. New York: Springer; 2002.

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