



Types of Articles Accepted

Brief Report

A brief report is a manuscript that describes a work in progress or describes a study with small numbers that creates equipoise, indicating the need for future research. Brief reports do not have an abstract. Brief reports should be limited to 2500 words and 5 authors.

Case Reports

Case reports should describe a patient that was treated by the authors. The patient course can represent outpatient and/or inpatient treatment. The case report abstract should be unstructured and have no section headings. Informed consent from the patient should be obtained by the authors. A statement of consent should be included in the text. Proof of informed consent is not required at the time of submission but may be requested. Authors can use the following CARE Statement Guidelines to help prepare a well written case report.

<https://www.care-statement.org/checklist>

A case report should meet one of the following criteria to merit publication:

- A previously unknown disease
- A previously unreported association of two diseases
- A new presentation or feature of a known disease
- A new diagnostic modality for a known disease
- An unexpected course or outcome of a known disease
- An unexpected response to treatment of a known disease
- A new treatment for a known disease
- A treatment previously only used in animal models

Case reports are limited to < 1000 words. The unstructured abstract should be < 300 words. Case reports are limited to 5 authors.

Editorials

Editorials are commentaries written by the editors or by their invitation that focus on 1 or a series of articles in the *JMSMA* or on topics of special importance to our readership. There is no abstract. Maximum specifications: < 1500 words and no more than 1 table and/or figure with reduction in word count. Editorials are limited to 1 author.

Letter to the Editor

Letters discussing a recent *JMSMA* article should be submitted within 4 weeks of the article's publication in print. Letters received after 4 weeks will rarely be considered. Letters should not exceed 750 words of text and 5 references, 1 of which should be to the recent *JMSMA* article. Letters to the editor are limited to 1 author.

Commentaries

Commentaries discuss a topic relevant to *JMSMA* readership. A commentary should explore any subject that can affect the health of Mississippians or impact healthcare in Mississippi. Commentaries should not exceed 750 words of text and are limited to 1 author.

Mississippi Frontline

The purpose of this series is to describe the innovative implementation of best clinical practices in Mississippi. This series offers an opportunity for physicians and scientists to describe a clinical project they have implemented and how they have translated best evidence into practice. A manuscript submitted to this series should include the background, a description of the problem, evidence to support its implementation, how the project was developed, how the project was funded, how the project was implemented, challenges, outcomes, and future directions. Mississippi Frontline is not a scientific article. Frontline Mississippi Medicine is limited to 5 authors.

Physician's Bookshelf

To be considered for Physician's Bookshelf, the manuscript must be a physician-written book review of a recent book. Book reviews should not be of books that have withstood the test of time. Meaningful reviews include a summary of the book and what the book means to the author.

Original Scientific Manuscript

An original scientific manuscript thoroughly describes a scientific study completed by the authors. Scientific studies may represent observational studies, cohort studies, before and after studies, case series, case-control studies, intervention studies, cost-effectiveness analysis, decision analysis, and randomized controlled trials. Each manuscript should include:

- Abstract – An abstract is a very abbreviated version of the study including all the headings below.
- Introduction – Describe the background that shows why the study is important. State the purpose of the article. Do not review the entire subject extensively. State the primary aims of the study.
- Methods – Identify the details of the methods used for the study so that others may reproduce the results. These include study setting, procedures, randomization techniques, inclusion/exclusion criteria, consent, measured outcomes, statistical tests performed. IRB approval should be noted.
- Results – Results should be presented in a logical order. These should include study dates, total number of patients recruited, total completing the study, missing data, results of statistical tests. Data in tables and figures should not be repeated in the text.
- Discussion – The discussion should make key conclusions about the results of the study. What does the author need to take-away from this study? Do not repeat the results. Avoid making unjustified conclusions. Identify limitations. Describe areas of future research that need to be addressed.

Original scientific manuscripts should be less than 4500 words. The manuscript should have no more than 5 tables/figures and 30 references. The manuscript is limited to 10 authors.

Special Articles

These in-depth, scholarly communications describe in thorough, well-referenced, systematic, or evidence-based manner any important topic in internal medicine, public health, research, ethics, health policy, or health prevention that is of interest to our readership and the wider health care community. A narrative abstract of 200 words or fewer is required. Maximum length: 3000 words of text (not including acknowledgment, tables, figures, or references) with no more than a total of 8 tables and/or figures and no more than 30 references. Special articles

Systematic Reviews

A systematic review is a comprehensive and strategic review all research on a specific subject. The purpose of a systematic review is to:

- Identify all scientific evidence on a subject
- Critically appraise the quality of each piece of evidence
- Summarize the findings

Systematic Reviews should be less than 3000 words. The manuscript should have no more than 5 tables/figures and 50 references. The manuscript is limited to 10 authors.

Top 10 Facts You Need to Know Series

The purpose of this series of articles is to provide referenced information on clinical management of medical conditions in a concise fashion. The submissions should be directed toward practitioners who do not have specialty training on the specific topic as a matter of general information. Articles should consist of 10 numbered paragraphs. Each of the paragraphs will begin with a fact that physicians need to know and a brief explanation of why. Facts will be referenced for each of the 10 points. Top 10 Facts is limited to 1000 words and 5 tables/figures. should not be review articles. Each of the 10 facts should be clearly referenced. If there are specialty society guidelines in the area being discussed, the essential features of the recommendations should be included in the official guidelines cited in the references. Top 10 Facts are limited to 5 authors.

UpToDate Mississippi Series

The purpose of this series of articles is to provide brief reviews on topics of general interest to the practicing physicians of Mississippi in areas where recent developments in diagnosis or treatment have occurred. Articles should be practical and useful to physicians in office or hospital practice. Suggested organization of manuscripts is Introduction, Diagnosis, Recent developments, Conclusion, and References. Up to date is limited to 2000 words and 8 references. Figures are great as are “callouts,” i.e., boxes with key points to remember emphasizing the “take home” messages. If there are specialty society guidelines on the topic, the essential features of the recommendations should be summarized in the text and the official guidelines should be cited in the references. UpToDate series is limited to 5 authors.