

Instructions for authors

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The following categories of paper are accepted by the Southern Med Review

- Original research papers
- Short reports
- Commentaries
- Mapping the pharmaceutical situation in your country
- Theoretical and methodological papers
- Letters to the Editor

Instructions for paper categories

Original research papers

Original research reports outline significant bodies of empiric or exploratory (qualitative) work. These papers must contribute significantly to the knowledge base within the field of policy, access or use of medicines.

Original research papers should not exceed 4000 words

The paper should be structured in the following manner: Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion.

Abstract – The abstract should not exceed 300 words. The abstract should include an outline of the study under the following headings; objective, methods, results and conclusions

Introduction – The introduction should be approximately 500 to 1000 words and should outline the background to the study and clearly state the aims of the study and the paper

Methods – The methods section should be 500 to 1000 words long and should describe the sample selection, methods used, data analysis processes and ethics approval. The information should be in sufficient detail to enable the reader to repeat the study.

Results – It is expected that the results section will be in the vicinity of 1000 to 1500 words. The results should include relevant demographics of participants, statistical analysis and study outcomes.

Discussion – The discussion section should be around 1000 words and preferably structured in the following manner:

- Very brief summary of the results
- Limitations of the study in light of these results

- Findings relative to the international published literature (what the study adds)
- Implications for policy or practice and future research

Conclusions – Approximately 200 words in length the conclusion should summarise the key findings of the study and emphasize the contribution of the study to the academic and/or practice literature

Short reports

Short reports should follow the guidelines of the full report but should not exceed 2000 words. The abstract should be structured in the same manner as a full research report and should not exceed 200 words. Each section should have proportionately the same word limit as the full research reports outlined above.

The aim of the short research reports is to provide an opportunity to present interim work that may be part of a larger project or a pilot study upon which further doctoral studies will be undertaken.

Commentaries

Commentaries can be unsolicited and forwarded directly to the Editor or individuals may be invited by the Editor to write commentary on areas of topical interest to the SMR and its readership. Commentaries should not exceed 2000 words excluding the abstract. The abstract can be unstructured but must clearly outline the background, aim of the commentary and the key message or conclusion. The abstract should not exceed 200 words. These commentaries are expected to generate significant thought and possibly constructive debate amongst the SMR readership. They are expected to be concise and to the point.

Mapping the pharmaceutical situation in your country

It is expected that these papers will provide a descriptive overview of the pharmaceutical situation in countries for which such a mapping exercise has not been published. However, in addition to the straightforward description these papers need to outline the ramifications of the pharmaceutical situation and highlight the potential research questions/agenda's or issues identified by the review. These issues may be at the level of the overall health system or within a specific aspect or sector of pharmacy. The SMR is particularly interested in receiving reports from nations in conflict.

These articles should not exceed 4000 words. The abstract can be unstructured as per the commentary outlined above but must include the background, aim of the paper, key findings and a short and clear conclusion

Theoretical and methodological papers

Theoretical and methodological papers may include proposed models or research designs for the study of medicines access, medicines use or policy ramifications. Papers in this category may also include the application of established theories to pharmaceutical research. The word limit of these papers is 4000 words and the abstract is unstructured but contains the mandatory requirements outlined under commentary.

Paper layout

Cover Letter

Your cover letter must include contact information of corresponding author including valid e-mail address, affiliation and mailing address. Include in the cover letter a statement that the manuscript is original and that the work has not been published elsewhere (with the exception of abstracts and full papers in the Proceedings of Scientific Meetings).

Preparation of manuscripts

Type papers double spaced, using Times New Roman font size 12 throughout the text, tables and references.

Title page

Give the full title of the article. Title page must also contain author information. Type the authors' names and affiliations using the format below:

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Reference styles

References may include journals, books, conference proceedings, website downloads. References should follow the text and begin on a separate page. They must be double-spaced and numbered consecutively in order of appearance in the text. Superscript

reference number before the full stop. All references must be verified by the Author(s) against the original documents

Reference to a journal article

For references to journal articles, the list of names should be included for one and two authors. For three or more authors *et al* should follow the initials of the first author. Commas are not required to separate the surname or the initials of authors. The authors' names are followed by the title of the article. The first letter of the title should be a capital letter, the rest lower case. The journal abbreviation should be used and italicised. The time period is then added i.e. the year of publication and a space left. After the year of publication a semi colon should be included followed by the volume number then a colon followed by the first page number a short dash and the final page number.

Example: Author's surname Author's first name or initial. Title of article. *Title of the Journal*, Year of publication; Volume Number: Page numbers of article.

Gass JD, Piero EJ. Exudative stellate neuroretinopathy and Coats Syndrome in patients with progressive hemifacial atrophy. *Eur J Ophthalmol* 1991; 1: 2-10.

Journal articles that are in press should be laid out as above except contain the statement (in press) at the very end of the citation. Electronic publications ahead of print need to have the statement (accessed...date, epub ahead of print) at the end of the citation. Papers from corporate authors such as study groups or societies include the name of the organization in place of the author list but the remainder of the citation is as per a standard journal article. Online serials are written as for standard journal articles but include the full website address followed by the date of access. Articles in conference proceedings follow the format of standard journal articles but include the proceedings of the conference name, location, date and either proceedings page number or abstract reference number

Book references

List the last name of the first author of the book, followed by the first and middle initial. For a book by a single author or a group of authors working together as a single author include all of their names with initial following and a comma between each. The title should be in italics. The edition follows the title with a comma placed between the title and edition. A full stop follows the edition and the city of the publisher is outlined followed by a colon and the publisher, a comma, the date and a fullstop.

An edited book starts with the first author followed by *et al* in italics then a full stop and *eds*. In italics. The book title is in italics followed by a comma then the edition followed by a fullstop. The city of published followed by a colon, the publisher followed by a comma then the year of publication and a full stop

An article in an edited book should include the author's name followed by initials with no commas between name or initials. The title of the article follows the fullstop after the last initial. A comma is then followed by the word In, a colon then the editors names and their initials separated

Dissertations or theses

Dissertations and/or theses begin with the authors name followed by initials without separation by commas. The title of the thesis follows the fullstop after the last initial. There is a fullstop at the end of the title. The city follows the title with a colon at the end. The name of the university followed by a comma then the year of submission and the type of dissertation of thesis in brackets i.e Honours, Masters or PhD

Website

Author/editor's surname author/editor's first name or initial followed by the website Title and URL (Access date)

Example:

Hudson P. PM, Costello liars: former bank chief. In: The Age. 16 September 1998.
<http://www.theage.com.au/daily/980916/news/news2.html> (16 Sept. 1998).

Submission of manuscripts

Send manuscript to Dr. Zaheer-Ud Din Babar (Editor- Southern Med Review, Auckland, New Zealand) to any of the following e-mail addresses.

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