

# Instructions for Authors

## Aim and scope of the Journal

The *African Journal of Nephrology (Afr J Nephrol)* is the official journal of the African Association of Nephrology (AFRAN) and publishes peer-reviewed papers relating to clinical or basic research in nephrology and hypertension, as well as nephrology education. The Journal considers submissions of original and review articles, case reports, technical reports, practice guidelines, images in nephrology, teaching points, proceedings of national or regional congresses, and letters to the Editor.

## General

Manuscripts may only be submitted online, via the Journal website. Manuscripts should not be under consideration by another journal and should not have been published previously except as a poster or abstract. We recommend that manuscripts be scanned with a plagiarism checker before submission. Permission from the copyright holder must be submitted with manuscripts containing previously published material such as figures or tables.

Manuscripts which fail to satisfy the requirements set out in this document may be rejected without further review.

Authors are referred to the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals at <http://www.icmje.org/>.

## Language policy

Authors are invited to submit articles written in English or French. All French articles must also be accompanied by an English title, abstract and list of keywords. Please contact us if assistance is required.

## Authorship

All authors must have made a significant contribution and must have approved the final manuscript submitted for publication. A signed authorship statement must be submitted by each author to confirm that all listed authors meet authorship criteria and that no others meeting the criteria have been omitted.

Lesser contributions should be indicated in an Acknowledgments paragraph after the Conclusions. Persons mentioned in the Acknowledgments must have agreed to be acknowledged in this way.

## Ethics

All studies must comply with institutional and international regulations such as the Declaration of Helsinki. Human and animal studies require ethics committee or institutional review board approval, and human studies require informed consent. Compliance with these requirements must be documented at the end of the Methods section of the manuscript.

## Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and resources

Any use of content generated by an AI application must be declared and appropriately referenced. Not acknowledging such use could amount to plagiarism. Concealing the use of AI tools is unethical and violates the principles of transparency and honesty in research. Note that AI may generate references to non-existent works and all citations therefore need to be carefully checked. See the [ASSAf and SciELO guidelines](#) for more information.

## Acknowledgements

Manuscripts should include an Acknowledgements section, if appropriate. This follows the Conclusions and should provide detail on funding sources and other contributions to the paper that do not merit authorship.

## Conflict of interests

The manuscript and cover letter must include a declaration that the authors have no conflict of interests, or a statement that details the potential conflict.

## Covering letter

All manuscripts must be accompanied by a 1-page cover letter which specifies the type of article and summarizes the contribution it makes to the scientific literature. It should confirm that the manuscript is not under consideration by another journal and has not been previously published. It should contain an author contribution statement as well as a statement on any potential conflict of interests. The cover letter can be uploaded with the supplementary files.

## Types of contributions

### Original articles

These articles present new research results and should be limited to 4000 words and no more than 30 references. Section headings should include Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conflicts of interest, Acknowledgements and References.

### *Review articles*

Review articles are usually invited. Authors who wish to submit a review article should first liaise with the editor before manuscript submission. These articles should usually be limited to 5000 words and include no more than 50 references.

### *Reports of clinical trials*

Reports of clinical trials should comply with the CONSORT guidelines and include a participant flow diagram. See <http://www.consort-statement.org/> for details and for a template of the flow diagram.

The study should be included in a registry of clinical trials before commencement and the Methods section of the manuscript should cite the registration number. The Pan African Clinical Trials Registry (<http://www.pactr.org/>) is an example of such a registry.

### *Case reports*

Concise reports of unusual or informative cases should be no more than 800 words (excluding the abstract and references). The abstract should not exceed 100 words. One table, up to two images, and up to 15 references may be included. All case reports must include a statement on ethics approval or a statement that permission for publication was granted by the patient or family.

### *Images in Nephrology*

One or two high resolution images of exceptional interest may be submitted. These may be made available by the Journal to readers as PowerPoint slides. The accompanying text should be no more than 300 words, have a very brief abstract, and have a maximum of 6 references.

### *Congress proceedings*

Abstracts of presentations at national or regional congresses can be submitted for publication in the Journal. Congress organisers are responsible for ensuring that the abstracts are correctly formatted and checked for errors. They will be published as received and are not sent for peer review. Congress proceedings are published as a single, searchable PDF document. The first page(s) should include the name, place and dates of the congress, and a concise list of abstract titles and authors.

### *Letters to the Editor*

Letters should be no more than 250 words and relate to papers recently published in the Journal. They will be sent to the authors of the original paper for reply.

## **Manuscript layout**

Submissions should be submitted as Microsoft Word files. UK English spelling should be used. The text should be Arial, font size 12. Pages should be A4 size and should be numbered consecutively, commencing with the title page.

*Abbreviations* must be spelled out the first time they are used, followed by the abbreviated form in parentheses.

*Units of measurement.* Système International (SI) units must be used e.g. kg, g, µg, cm, mm, etc. An exception is blood pressure which is reported in mmHg.

*Trade names.* Non-proprietary (generic) names should be used. The source of any new or experimental preparation should be given.

### *Manuscript sections*

#### Title page:

Include the article title (use an initial capital letter only i.e. sentence case) and avoid abbreviations within the title, list all authors and their institutional affiliations at the time of the study, provide a short running title of up to 50 characters, the word count (not including the abstract, tables and references) and the name, address and email address of the corresponding author.

#### Abstract and keywords:

Abstracts should be structured into Background, Methods, Results and Conclusions, and should not exceed 250 words in original or review articles, and 100 words in case reports. A French translation of the abstract may be submitted as an addition. Abstracts should not contain any figures, tables or references. List a maximum of 6 keywords below the abstract.

#### Main text:

Original articles should include Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion sections, each beginning on a new page. Statistical methods must be included in the Methods section. Methods not in common use should be described fully or supported by references. A statement on ethical approval should be included at the end of the Methods section.

#### Tables

Tables should not be submitted separately but should be included in the manuscript file directly after the paragraph in which it is first cited. All tables should be editable and not pasted into the manuscript as an image. They should be numbered consecutively and each must have a brief caption placed above the table. Place footnotes below the table.

## Figures

Figures should be submitted as separate, high-resolution images. Low-resolution copies may be embedded in the manuscript file. Multipanel figures must be provided as a single file. Figures should be numbered in the order they are mentioned in the text. Figure titles and legends should be included in the main manuscript, not in the graphic files.

Photomicrographs should have a scale bar and the legend should include details of the staining technique. Patients shown in photographs should have their identity concealed or should have given their written consent to publication.

## References

References should be relevant and not exceed 50 for review articles, 30 for original articles, 15 for case reports, 6 for images in nephrology and 5 for letters to the editor.

We strongly recommend the use of bibliographic software tools, such as EndNote or Mendeley, for reference management and formatting. For EndNote users, an *Afr J Nephrol* style file is available. The PLOS output style can also be used.

Citations in the text are indicated by the reference number(s) in square brackets, without using any spaces, e.g. [1,5-7].

At the end of the article, the references should be numbered in the order in which they first appear in the text. They should give the names of all authors unless there are more than six, when only the first six should be given, followed by “et al”. This should be followed by the title of the article, the abbreviated journal name, the year of publication, the volume number and the full first and last page numbers. Consult PubMed for journal name abbreviations - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals/>.

References to books should give the title, followed by the place of publication, the publisher, the year and the page numbers.

### Examples:

#### Journal articles:

Levey AS, Eckardt KU, Tsukamoto Y, Levin A, Coresh J, Rossert J, et al. Definition and classification of chronic kidney disease: a position statement from Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO). *Kidney Int.* 2005; 67:2089-2100.

#### Books:

Halperin ML, Goldstein MB, Kamel KS. *Fluid, electrolyte, and acid-base physiology: a problem-based approach.* Philadelphia, PA: Saunders; 2010.

#### Book sections or chapters:

Topham PS, Chen Y. Renal biopsy. In: Floege Jr, Johnson RJ, Feehally J, editors. *Comprehensive clinical nephrology.* 4th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Saunders; 2010. pp. 75-84.

#### Reports:

Ghana AIDS Commission. National and sub-national HIV and AIDS estimates and projections. Available from: [www.ghanaims.gov.gh](http://www.ghanaims.gov.gh). Accessed 17 June 2021.

#### AI tools:

Chat GTP 3.5, Version 28 August 2023, Open AI, accessed 16 September 2023.

## Proofs

Upon acceptance, PDF proofs of the copyedited manuscript will be prepared. The corresponding author will be notified by email and should respond within 72 hours. Only minor corrections are allowed at this stage.

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