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Authors submitting papers for publication should adhere to the format described below. Failure to do so may result in the return of the paper for revision before assessment, with inevitable delay in publication.

General

The journal is published six times per year and covers the field of epidemiology and community health relating to a total defined and numerically rated population. Papers are accepted on their scientific originality and general interest. Ethical considerations will be taken into account. All papers are refereed by independent assessors. Only original material will be considered for publication.

Submission of manuscripts

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Format

TITLE PAGE

The title page should contain the title of the paper, a short running head, the names of all the authors, and the authors' institutions (only one affiliation per author). A telephone and fax number (if available) should also be given on the title page.

ABSTRACT

Abstracts must be structured and use the following headings: **Study objective; Design; Setting; Patients (or Participants); Main results; Conclusions.** It is very important that the abstract is properly prepared in accordance with the guidelines for structured abstracts published in *Annals of Internal Medicine* 1987; 106: 596-604. In particular, **Design** must include as many of the following terms as apply: randomised; non-randomised; double blind; placebo controlled; crossover; before-after trial; inception cohort; cohort; case-control; survey; case series; cost-effectiveness analysis; cost-benefit analysis; retrospective; prospective. **Patients (Participants)** must include numbers studied, the proportion of participants who completed the study, and the numbers of eligible subjects approached who refused to participate. Characteristics of matched groups should be specified.

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References

References must be in the Vancouver style, numbered in the text in numerical order of first citation and listed in number order in the reference list. Journal abbreviations should follow those used in *Index Medicus*.

The following styles are used:

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1 Ben-Shlomo Y, White I, McKeigue PM. Prediction of general practice workload from census based social deprivation scores. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 1992; 46: 532-6.

Book references:

2 Armitage P, Berry G. *Statistical methods in medical research*. Oxford: Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1987: 194.

3 Wisniewski HM, Sturman JA. Neurotoxicity of aluminum. In: Gitelmad HJ, ed. *Aluminum and health. A critical review*. New York: Marcel Decker, 1989: 125-6.

Thesis:

4 Brooke OG. *Malnutrition and body temperature in Jamaican children*. London: University of London, 1973. MD Thesis.

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Statistics

Standard deviations and standard errors are given in parentheses after the values they qualify; & is not used. In statistical evaluation, it is desirable to quote 95% confidence intervals. A full description of the statistical methods used must be provided in the methods section.

Abbreviations

On the whole the journal does not use abbreviations. There are very few exceptions so if in doubt always give the names or terms in full.

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All research on human subjects must have been approved by the appropriate ethics committee and must have conformed to the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki. An appropriate statement to this effect must be included in the methods section of the paper.